SECRET

Soviet agent. He is also closely acquainted with [redacted] b7C

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Because of subject's importance in the Air Force, OSI has conducted the investigation of him in Europe. Two individuals interviewed by OSI there have verified subject's position as Minister of Culture in the Bela Kun Government of Hungary during 1919.

b7C 2. Los Angeles has advised that recently [redacted] b1 (S)

3. Mail cover on subject reflects he is in contact with one [redacted] of New York who is apparently identical with [redacted] b7C (A)(S)

4. New York Confidential Informant [redacted] has advised that he met subject once in 1945, at which time he was impressed with subject's favorable reaction to Russian Communist domination of Hungary and for that reason, never recontacted subject. New York Confidential Informant [redacted] although he did not know subject personally, stated he had heard that subject and several other assistants of a Hungarian Professor joined the Bela Kun regime in Hungary as a result of the Professor's b2 b7D

SECRET

SECRET

influence over them. Other New York informants, although acquainted with the Bela Kun regime in Hungary, have been unable to identify subject.

5. OSI investigation in Europe identified [redacted] as the original G-2 informant who reported subject's past affiliation with the Bela Kun Government. [redacted] when recently interviewed, denied having furnished such information and stated he met Von Karman about one year ago at the residence of [redacted] which residence he had attended with several other persons at [redacted] invitation for the purpose of [redacted] recalls at that time that subject made the statement, [redacted] believed it to indicate that subject was speaking favorably of the fact that the Hungarian people were presently living under a Communist Government and were apparently voluntarily so doing. [redacted] recalls that one of the other guests remarked, [redacted]

b7C
b7D

As you are aware, [redacted] recommended that the following persons who were in attendance be interviewed:

[redacted] Baltimore, Maryland

Bufiles reflect ONI memorandum dated April 4, 1949, which lists [redacted] as having been brought to the United States [redacted] because of his excellent background [redacted]

b7C

b1

(5) [redacted] 39-1035-56)

Declassified per CIA letter dated 6-6-96

- 3 -

SECRET

SECRET

b7C

[redacted]

(100-89-54-139)

WFO has also recommended that the following be interviewed concerning subject:

[redacted] Woods Hole, Massachusetts

In a recent letter, Boston advised that [redacted] has been cooperative during several recent interviews. [redacted] however, has a long background of association with Communists and it is noted that he has failed to volunteer information concerning his past associates and has stated that although he desires to cooperate with the Bureau, he will not act as an informant. He has been reliably described as [redacted] and is associated with subject [redacted]

(100-347660)

b7D

[redacted] is presently [redacted] Our files reflect that he is strongly anti-Soviet although it does not appear that he has ever been used as a source of information.

(105-11669-7;
100-89-158;
100-89-Section 3)

SECRET

SECRET

RECOMMENDATIONS:

b1 [redacted] (S)

*Classified per CIA letter 9-8-98

b7D b7C [redacted] 2. That New York be authorized to interview concerning subject and that WFO be authorized to interview [redacted] for the same purpose in the event their files do not reflect information unavailable to the Bureau which makes such interviews inadvisable.

If you agree, there is attached an appropriate communication to Los Angeles and auxiliary offices.

Attachment

SECRET

FBI
(1-10-49)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 4
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-5-92 BY SP5 SCHAN

FILE NO. 100-22923

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
WASHINGTON, D. C.	AUG 2 1951	6/22;7/11,20/51	[redacted] b7C RLS:pb

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

b1

[redacted] has met subject only twice, unacquainted with his political activities in Hungary or any Communist sympathies. [redacted] has conversed with subject approximately four times since 1942, considers him strongly pro-Soviet and questionable security risk. Subject has admitted to [redacted] role in Hungary under Kun regime but discounted any sympathies for that government. Visited in Hotel room, D. C., by three Russians shortly after return from Europe, 1945, pertinence of visit not known. No record re [redacted] WFO.

b7C b7D

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.

AGENCY [redacted] b2
REQ. REC'D 6-20-56
REP'T FORW. 7-5-56
BY Jan Lyf

G.I.R.-5

AGENCY photo 11-5-46
REQ. REC'D 1-13-56
REP'T FORW. 1-24-56
BY Alf Wm

b7C

AGENCY Dept. of State
REQ. REC'D 6-20-56
REP'T FORW. 7-13-56
BY Alf-9mb
Re: Bro. Nicolas Von Karman

- R U C -

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

[redacted] who came to the United States from Hungary in the late 1940's, advised that he had heard of subject by reputation generally as a fine mathematician and scientist, but that he knows nothing of his background or political inclinations. [redacted] first met subject at the apartment of [redacted] in Washington around 1949 where, at the latter's invitation, several Hungarian Scientists convened for the purpose of [redacted]

b7C b7D

R

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
		65 RECORDED - 111 INDEXED - 111 EX-88

COPIES OF THIS REPORT
6 - Bureau (100-372586)
3 - Los Angeles (105-863)
1 - New York (Info) (65-6747)
2 - Washington Field

COPY IN FILE

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Among the individuals present as recalled [redacted] were [redacted] and [redacted] The evening at [redacted] was strictly social in nature, although most of the conversation naturally concerned general scientific matters. [redacted] did not recall any remark by the subject during the evening which had any pro-Communist or Soviet implications.

[redacted] stated that at this time he had been doing some experimental work in his own field and discussed with the subject the possibility of the latter affording him an introduction or recommendation to the Navy Department in order that he might have an entree with this department by which he could possibly gain a contract for experimental work. According to [redacted] subject agreed to write such a letter to the Navy; however, it was not known to [redacted] whether he actually did so. [redacted] had mentioned to KARMAN that he was doing experimentation and study [redacted] and that during the course of his conversation with KARMAN the latter asked [redacted] if there was any possibility to use this method in order to [redacted] Sometime later, [redacted] had occasion to travel to New York City where he visited KARMAN in the latter's Hotel room, the name of the Hotel not being recalled. The visit was of short duration and some general conversation was held between the two men in addition to the somewhat technical discussion of the aforementioned field of experimentation in which [redacted] was engaged. According to [redacted] he has not corresponded with or seen subject since this latter meeting, and that as a result of his slight acquaintance with him, he would be unable to give any opinion as to the latter possessing pro-Communist or pro-Soviet tendencies. During their discussions, he had never observed anything on the part of VON KARMAN which would lead him to believe that the latter was engaged in any subversion or questionable activity.

[redacted] stated that he had never met subject prior to 1942 or 1943, although he had heard of him by his professional reputation, and that it was also generally known in Hungarian circles that VON KARMAN had been involved with the Kun government, and that at its overthrow, he had left Hungary.

b1C b1D

The exact details of this involvement were not known to [redacted] nor could he attribute such information about subject to any particular individual.

In 1942 or 1943, [redacted] who mentioned to [redacted] that as both he and subject were of Hungarian birth and professional men, they would probably enjoy becoming acquainted. Subject at the time was residing in some Hotel in Washington with his sister JOSEPHINE, and they were introduced through [redacted] who is not believed to be particularly friendly nor well acquainted with subject. According to [redacted] he met subject probably two or three times thereafter in the latter's Hotel in Washington, during which time their conversation concerned general world conditions and the "old country, Hungary". The last time that they met was in 1945, shortly after subject had returned from Europe and had evidently visited Russia. At this time, as on the previous occasions, subject called [redacted] at his home and invited him to his Hotel room. On the particular evening, [redacted] went to the Hotel, and as was the custom, went directly to subject's room where he knocked on the door. The door was opened by the subject, who appeared somewhat abashed and chagrined, and rather apologetically stated that he had had visitors who had remained longer than he had expected, but that they were then ready to leave. [redacted] was ushered into the room and introduced to three men, all of whom had Russian names, and either spoke in Russian or in English with a distinct Russian accent. Immediately after the introduction, the men each picked up a briefcase and departed. The names and descriptions of these men are not recalled by [redacted] who further stated that he was certainly not in a position to state that there was anything amiss in the men being in KARMAN's apartment, although at the time, it did appear to him to be extremely suspicious due to the fact that KARMAN had just returned from a trip abroad and was, as known to [redacted] engaged in rather highly important work of a technical nature for this government in this country even though the exact nature of the work was not known to [redacted]. Subject never offered any explanation concerning the presence of the men, nor did he thereafter elude to them. Throughout his meetings with subject, the latter had always appeared to be very favorably disposed toward and sympathic to the Soviet Union, and upon the occasion of their last meeting in the Hotel

b7C b7D

room, he was profuse in his praising of that nation and apparently could find nothing to criticize concerning Russia.

Subject was not known to be, nor to have ever been, a member of the Communist Party either in Hungary, Germany, or the United States, but it was [redacted] impression that the latter possessed definite pro-Soviet leanings, and as a result thereof, was a very questionable security risk. The subject had mentioned to [redacted] that he had held a position in the educational field during the Kun regime but mentioned that he had never been a Communist Party member nor an actual functionary in the regime, and it was [redacted] opinion that it is quite possible that his reasons for becoming involved with the Kun regime might well have been opportunistic as well as motivated by any ideological considerations.

[redacted] stated that on a number of occasions subject has called him at his home in order to make future appointments to meet with him, but that he, [redacted] has assiduously advoided KARMAN due to the disquieting feeling that KARMAN is pro-Soviet, and that consequently, they have not subsequently met. [redacted] stressed that he would be unable to definitely prove or refer to specific instances wherein KARMAN had appeared to him to be pro-Soviet, and that other than as stated above, this opinion was based on the general feeling which he obtained from his conversations with subject.

Indices of the Washington Field Office reveal no information identifiable with [redacted]

b7C b7D

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

WFO 100-22923

ADMINISTRATIVE

46 & 48

REFERENCE: Bureau teletype dated May 12, 1951.
Report of SA [redacted] dated May 3, 1951 at Washington, D. C. - 30
Report of SA [redacted] dated June 13, 1951, at Los Angeles.

b7C

RECORDED - 24

100-372586 — 66

CONFIDENTIAL
VIA LIAISON

Date: September 6, 1951

To: Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

354.894 DECLASSIFIED BY SP5 Jc/10
ON 6-25-99

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN
[redacted]
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

[redacted] Holland Hotel, New York City, called at the New York Office of this Bureau on August 6, 1951, and advised that he [redacted] who came to the United States [redacted] to exhibit to the U. S. military authorities an invention which he stated he previously discussed with Dr. Theodore Von Karman, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee, U. S. Air Force, in Europe. This invention is [redacted]

b7C

According to [redacted] after his arrival in the United States he contacted Von Karman who sent him to [redacted] Research and Development Branch, Military Planning Division, Army Quartermaster Corps, Washington, D. C. [redacted] referred [redacted] to Reed Research Incorporated, Washington, D. C., but no agreements were consummated by [redacted] with that concern. [redacted] further stated that Von Karman also attempted to have his inventions developed through Aerojet, an organization in which Von Karman has an interest.

Von Karman also introduced [redacted] to [redacted] stated that he believed both Von Karman and [redacted] were Communists but he had no specific data upon which to substantiate this allegation. [redacted] called attention to an organized-tion.

Note: Internal Security - R investigation is being conducted by Bureau on Von Karman. Due to his highly placed position, reports are being disseminated only to OSI and Assistant Attorney General McInerney. The matter referred to in this communication has no connection with the current investigation of Von Karman but should be of definite interest to OSI & G-2. Therefore, information from our files concerning subjects is not being included in instant communication. NACA not being advised inasmuch as [redacted]

JEM:eal

Tolson
Ladd
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Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

SEP 14 1951

article appearing in [redacted]
entitled, [redacted] This article reported that data concerning [redacted] was previously furnished to both Von Karman [redacted] but apparently no action was taken for some time leaving the impression that the U. S. military authorities lost many years in this development.

[redacted] attempted to point out the similarity between this article and his experiences by stating that Von Karman [redacted] had discouraged him whereas he believes that his inventions would be of value to the U. S. military authorities.

b7C

The information contained herein is being furnished for your confidential use. No further action with respect to [redacted] complaint is contemplated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

cc - Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Chief, Security Division

CONFIDENTIAL - VIA LIAISON

[redacted] b7C

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: August 17, 1951

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN
[redacted]
SECURITY MATTER - C

On August 6, 1951, [redacted] living at the Holland Hotel, 42nd Street, New York City, called at the New York Office with his mother. [redacted] said that he had previously made complaints about the above-named individuals to both the Los Angeles and Washington Field Offices and desired to furnish additional information.

[redacted] is an alien and came to the United States with his mother sometime [redacted] The purpose of his visit to the United States was to exhibit to the American military authorities an invention which he had previously discussed with Dr. VON KARMAN when VON KARMAN was in Europe.

This invention primarily was [redacted]

[redacted] also invented what he calls [redacted] and he indicated was of much more use to the military authorities than his first invention.

After coming to the United States and meeting VON KARMAN, [redacted] was sent by VON KARMAN to [redacted] Research and Development Branch, Military Planning Division of the Army Quartermaster Corps of Washington, D.C. [redacted] discussed his first invention with [redacted] who attempted to interest [redacted] in having the Reed Research, Inc. of 1048 Potomac Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. telephone number Decatur 7000, which firm [redacted] indicated could help [redacted] in the manufacture of his invention, look at this invention.

cc: Los Angeles
Washington Field

BDM:MZ
100-0

RECORDED 13 1938
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SEP 14
354-844

100-312586-66
AUG 20

HANDLED BY

[redacted] met [redacted] of Reed a [redacted] but [redacted] was dissatisfied and nothing came of the negotiations.

VON KARMAN whose home address is 1501 Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California, is also the chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Air Force and has office space in Room 4C, 340 at the Pentagon.

After [redacted] came to the United States and discussed his inventions with VON KARMAN, VON KARMAN tried to get [redacted] to have the inventions developed through Aerojet, a California firm with which VON KARMAN supposedly was affiliated. During the course of [redacted] discussions with VON KARMAN, he had occasion to meet [redacted]

[redacted] believes that both of these individuals are Communists He has no specific information to substantiate this statement that they are Communists although he pointed out an article entitled [redacted] which appears in the [redacted]

This article was written by [redacted] who notes in his article that the information about [redacted] was given to both of the above-mentioned individuals and that apparently no action was taken for sometime, leaving the impression that the United States military authorities lost many years ' time in failing to go ahead with the information which they received from the German Scientist. [redacted] attempts to point out the similarity between the statements made by [redacted] and his own experience, saying that both of these individuals have definitely discouraged him with his two inventions and that he believes both of the inventions would be of material assistance to the United States military authorities and yet no action has been taken to date.

[redacted] noted that both of his inventions had been patented at the United States patent office in Washington, D.C. and that he is represented by the patent law firm of Bacon and Thomas, New York City.

The above is being furnished for the information of the Bureau.

b7C

FD-72
(1-10-49)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

FILE NO. 65-1145

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CINCINNATI, OHIO	8-30-51	6-20;8-7-51	[redacted] b7C pkk

TITLE
THEODORE VON KARMAN, Was.

AGENCY Bureau
REQ. REC'D 6-27-56
REP'T FORW. 7-13-56
BY AU-gmb
Re: Theo. Nicholas von Karman

CHARACTER OF CASE
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

AGENCY [redacted] b2
REQ. REC'D
REP'T FORW.
BY

AGENCY Photo to USIA
REQ. REC'D 1-15-58
REP'T FORW. 1-24-58
BY

[redacted] advised he knew subject [redacted] subject was Professor at Aachen Technical College, Germany. [redacted]

May, 1926, subject made proposal to build up [redacted] and later became [redacted] Subject worked in this capacity at Aachen Technical College and never actually worked at [redacted] Only contact by [redacted] with subject was during [redacted] has had no contact with subject since [redacted]

b7D

stated it was common knowledge [redacted] subject had been connected with Bela Kun regime Hungary in 1919, where held position of Secretary of Ministry of Education. Source of above information not known to [redacted] never talked with subject concerning experience in Bela Kun regime Hungary [redacted]

stated he has no knowledge or way to determine if subject was sympathetic to Bela Kun regime in Hungary, 1919.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-19-90 BY SP5 SJC/pkm

HANDCARRIED BY STOP DESK 9-4-51

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: A. E. Ostholthoff SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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100-1[illegible]-1-67 RECORDED - 3

2 cc-CSC
8-28-51
[illegible]

EX-62

18, SEP 1 1951

13

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2 - Cincinnati

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63 SEP 14 1951

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—80637-2

Cin. 65-1145

DETAILS: AT DAYTON, OHIO

[redacted] stated he knew the subject [redacted] the subject was a Professor at Aachen Technical College, Rhine Province, Germany. During the winters while associated with this College, the subject spent some time in the United States where he was associated with the California Institute of Technology. Sometime during the middle 1920's the subject acted as an advisor to the Japanese, but it is not known whether he acted in this capacity for the Japanese Government or for some private industry in Japan.

In May, 1928, the subject made a proposal to build up [redacted] for the German Government, and he later became the [redacted] the subject never actually worked in Berlin, but carried on his work [redacted] at Aachen Technical College. [redacted] and it was on the occasion [redacted] was in personal contact and associated with the subject.

[redacted] has had no contact with him, in person or by correspondence, since that time.

[redacted] stated it was common knowledge [redacted] that the subject had been associated with the Bela Kun regime in Hungary in 1919. As [redacted] recalls, the subject held the position of Secretary of the Ministry of Education during the Bela Kun regime. [redacted] could not furnish the source of this information, but stated it was common knowledge and everyone [redacted] accepted this fact. The Bela Kun regime in Hungary was considered to be a Communist one, although he, [redacted] stated he could not prove this statement.

[redacted] continued that he never talked with the subject concerning his past experience in Hungary [redacted]

67D

Cin. 65-1145

[redacted] advised he has always admired the subject as a man and for his vast knowledge in the scientific field. According to [redacted] he has an excellent character, but whether or not he is a Communist or was in sympathy with the Bela Kun regime in Hungary, he [redacted] has no knowledge or way of determining this fact.

[redacted] stated that during the time he was associated with the subject, there were both "right" and "left" elements [redacted] in Berlin. Neither element questioned the other and in this same manner the subject was accepted [redacted]

67D

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

Cin. 65-1145

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCES: b7C Report of SA [redacted] Los Angeles, dated 6-13-51.
Cincinnati letter to Bureau dated 6-28-51.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : D. M. Ladd

DATE: September 12, 1951

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tr
Ent
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

PURPOSE:

To advise that the Bureau is conducting an investigation of captioned subject at the request of the U. S. Air Force and prior to its completion [redacted] Air Force, informed subject that he had been cleared. b7C

To recommend that a letter of protest be sent to the Office of Special Investigations, U. S. Air Force. [redacted] b7C

DETAILS:

You will recall that the Bureau is presently conducting an investigation of Theodore Von Karman who is Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, U. S. Air Force, and a consultant on the top secret project Vista, sponsored by the California Institute of Technology.

Our investigation was instituted in October, 1950, based upon a G-2 report which stated that in 1919 Von Karman, a professor at Caltech was Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs under the Bela Kun (Communist) Government in Hungary. Investigation revealed that the subject was probably employed by the U. S. Air Force and on January 23, 1951, the U. S. Air Force was furnished available data concerning him and requested to advise of his employment status. The Air Force replied on January 30, 1951, stating that the subject was an Air Force employee.

b7C By memorandum dated February 28, 1951, from Mr. V. P. Keay to Mr. A. H. Belmont, Mr. Keay advised that the Von Karman matter was discussed by S A [redacted] of the Liaison Section, and with [redacted] of OSI headquarters, at which time both [redacted] requested that the Bureau conduct an investigation of Von Karman and that the investigation be of an Internal Security character rather than a Loyalty type because Von Karman was employed under a contractural agreement with the Air Force and, therefore, not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 9835. [redacted] also stated that Von Karman has access to practically all classified data in the Air Force and OSI did not desire that the results of the investigation be disseminated to the Civil Service Commission, which, of course, would be necessary under Loyalty regulations.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-27-81 BY SP2 [illegible]

100-372586
Attachment
JEM:eme

RECORDED 19 100-372586-68
EX-105
SEP 19 1951

HANDLED BY STOP DESK

On the basis of the above request from OSI our investigation was reinstituted.

The investigation reflected that Von Karman was an associate of several Communist Party members and an associate of William Perl, a Soviet agent and [redacted]

Investigation further reflected that Von Karman was friendly with [redacted] an admitted former Communist Party member [redacted]

Von Karman was interviewed by Bureau agents in the presence of [redacted] of OSI on May 23, 1951, and on May 29, 1951, in Los Angeles, California. Von Karman admitted that he was connected with the Bela Kun Government in Hungary from March to July, 1919. He denied present or past CP membership and he denied that he had ever furnished classified data to any unauthorized person. He declined to sign a prepared statement but advised that he desired "to think it over." On September 4, 1951, Von Karman appeared at the Los Angeles Office after he was reminded of the statement which he previously stated he would consider signing. At that time he exhibited a letter dated August 22, 1951, from [redacted] U. S. Air Force, Washington, D. C. [redacted] letter reads as follows:

"Dr. Theodore Von Karman
1501 South Marengo Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. Von Karman:

"I refer to your several inquiries of me concerning the status of the investigation which was recently conducted concerning certain aspects of your past. I am happy to advise you that the case has been concluded and that the matter has been resolved within the Air Force completely in your favor.

"In the light of world conditions and the many complexities of our internal security problems, I am sure you will recognize the imperative need which exists to afford these matters considered attention both in the interest of the country and the individual involved.

"Trusting that we may have the benefit of your continued services for a long time to come, I am

Sincerely,

[redacted] U. S. Air Force b7C

Subject stated that in view of the above letter he assumed the investigation was concluded and he indicated that he had no desire now to sign this statement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although our investigation is now substantially completed, nevertheless, the Air Force has hampered the proper conduct of the investigation by the action of [redacted] telling Von Karman that the investigation was concluded and resolved in his favor by the Air Force.

b7C

It is recommended that a letter of protest be sent to OSI. If you agree, the letter is attached for your approval.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: Sept. 19, 1951

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-372586)

Re New York letter to the Bureau dated August 17, 1951 in above captioned matter reporting a complaint made at that office by [redacted] on August 6, 1951 concerning the subject [redacted]

[redacted] also appeared at the Los Angeles Office with his mother on June 18, 1951 giving substantially the same information as indicated in referenced letter, and related a long story of his difficulties in getting sponsorship for his inventions from the subject and others. As a result of these delays and obstacles, he made loose allegations and contended that they are all Communists or Communist sympathizers, without furnishing any substantiating information whatever.

[redacted] lamented and bemoaned getting an alleged "brush off" from the subject [redacted] He felt the same way regarding [redacted] of the International Petroleum Consultants Ltd., Pasadena, California and a [redacted] a lawyer, [redacted] who he also contacted through the subject and was likewise gave him no help, especially in regard to publishing a life story of his father.

[redacted] also remarked that he and his mother had been [redacted] Los Angeles, California, for reasons unknown and feared that they were being followed and requested to know if this office could afford them any protection.

In view of the nature of [redacted] information as reflected above, it has not been considered pertinent in the current investigation of the subject and has not been reported therein. A closing report in this matter is currently being prepared by this office.

JPA:AAD
105-863

RECORDED - 119

cc: Washington Field (100-22923)
New York (65-4747)

EX. 67

359-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-5-97 BY [redacted]

HANDLED BY STOP DESK

CONFIDENTIAL

Date: September 12, 1951

To: Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

354194
DECLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/DMK
ON 6-25-97

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

RECORDED - 19 100-372586-10

Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

X-105

During the course of our investigation of Theodore Von Karman, he was interviewed by representatives of this Bureau in Los Angeles, California, on September 4, 1951. During the interview, he exhibited the below-quoted letter dated August 22, 1951, from [redacted] U. S. Air Force:

b7C

"Dr. Theodore Von Karman
1501 South Marengo Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. Von Karman:

"I refer to your several inquiries of me concerning the status of the investigation which was recently conducted concerning certain aspects of your past. I am happy to advise you that this case has been concluded and that the matter has been resolved within the Air Force completely in your favor.

"In the light of world conditions and the many complexities of our internal security problems, I am sure you will recognize the imperative need which

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HANDLED BY
STOP DESK

OCT 5 1951

exists to afford these matters considered attention both in the interest of the country and the individual involved.

"Trusting that we may have the benefit of your continued services for a long time to come, I am

Sincerely,

[redacted] U. S. Air Force

b7C

As you are aware, our investigation was instituted at your specific request and was not completed on the date of [redacted] letter, August 22, 1951, nor is it complete at the present time. This Bureau considers that the U. S. Air Force has seriously hampered the successful completion of the investigation by furnishing such a letter to the subject.

You are further advised that our investigation in this matter is being brought to an immediate conclusion.

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES

DATE: September 5, 1951

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, Was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-372586)

Re Los Angeles letter dated July 5, 1951.

As noted in referenced letter the subject, after carefully correcting and amending a prepared statement dated May 29, 1951, as to his association with the Communist Bela Kun Government in Hungary in 1919, declined to sign it "at this time" although admitting the facts therein to be true. He indicated that he desired "to think the matter over" and agreed to advise this office later as to his final decision in the matter.

Not having heard from him to date, subject was recently contacted telephonically regarding the possible oversight in this matter, at which time he expressed a desire to come to the Los Angeles FBI Office. Accordingly, subject voluntarily appeared at the local FBI Office on September 4, 1951. He thereupon exhibited the following letter dated August 22, 1951, which he had received from [redacted] U. S. Air Force, Washington, D. C.:

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-2-97 BY [redacted]

Dr. Theodore Von Karman
1501 South Marengo Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. Von Karman:

EXPUNGED FROM CLASSIFIED FILE

"I refer to your several inquiries of me concerning the status of the investigation which was recently conducted concerning certain aspects of your past. I am happy to advise you that the case has been concluded and that the matter has been resolved within the Air Force completely in your favor.

"In the light of world conditions and the many complexities of our internal security problems, I am sure you will recognize the imperative need which exists to afford these matters considered attention both in the interest of the country and the individual involved.

JJA:clr/bep
105-869
cc: Washington Field (100-22923)

RECORDED - 100-372586-70
SEP 12 1951
EX-105

[redacted] b7C

MAILED

"Trusting that we may have the benefit of your continued services for a long time to come, I am

Sincerely,

[redacted] U. S. Air Force b7C

Subject stated that in view of the above letter he, therefore, assumed that the investigation concerning him had been concluded. He indicated that there was apparently no further need and no desire on his part to sign his previously furnished statement. It was again clearly reiterated to the subject that it was purely a voluntary matter on his part and that it was his privilege either to sign or to decline to sign the statement. It was also pointed out to him that he was being recontacted at this time merely to avoid any misunderstanding or oversight on his part in advising this office of his ultimate choice in the matter as he had agreed to do.

Although maintaining a cooperative attitude, it is noted that the subject appeared and also remarked that he was "embittered" somewhat as a result of inquiries having been made about him from former associates and friends in Europe and consequent embarrassment. He contended that he should have originally been contacted and questioned regarding the instant matter when he would and could have explained it in full. Subject was informed that this Bureau did not conduct any active investigation concerning him in Europe; further, that any inquiries made about him in this country were in accordance with the official performance of duties imposed upon this organization and in this instance at the specific request of the United States Air Force.

It is to be noted further that the subject, who still is Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, U. S. Air Force, Washington, D. C., stated that he has recently moved his local office from his residence where he has maintained it for some time to the former Arroyo Vista Hotel, Pasadena, California. This new location, he explained, houses the top secret project VISTA sponsored by the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, and for which he is also contacted as a consultant. Subject added that he made this move in order to afford his research papers, documents and materials proper security not available at his residence.

A closing report follows.

CONFIDENTIAL
VIA LIAISON

Date: October 16, 1951

To: Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Reference is made to my communication dated September 12, 1951, concerning captioned subject.

b7C [redacted] Enclosed is one copy of a report by Special Agent [redacted] dated September 27, 1951, at Los Angeles, California.

No further investigation is contemplated concerning this matter.

Attachment

JEM:mes

RECORDED - 102100-372586 — 7 to

EX. - 15

10/17/51

b7C [redacted]

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DECLASSIFIED BY SP5 DC/[illegible]

ON 6-19-97

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FBI

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PROPERTY OF FBI

This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

FILE No. 105-863

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
LOS ANGELES	9/27/51	8/25; 9/4,5,18/51	[redacted] AAD b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN recontacted Los Angeles FBI Office on Sept. 4, 1951 and indicated that he did not desire to sign the statement furnished by him on May 29, 1951 regarding his association with the Communist Bela Kun Regime in Hungary in 1919. VON KARMAN exhibited a letter dated Aug. 22, 1951 from Vice Chief of Staff, U.S.A.F. wherein he was informed that investigation concerning him had been resolved within the Air Force completely in his favor. Former European associates confirm his connection with Bela Kun Govt. though he was not believed to have been a confirmed Communist.

DETAILS:

Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN voluntarily appeared at the Los Angeles FBI Office on September 4, 1951 in connection with his previous promise to advise this office as to his decision regarding the signing of the amended and corrected statement furnished by him on May 29,1951 concerning his associations with the Communist Bela Kun Government in Hungary in 1919.

Subject thereupon exhibited a letter dated August 22, 1951 addressed to him which he had received from General N. F. [redacted] U. S. Air Force, Washington, D. C.,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [redacted] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

100-372586-[redacted]-71 RECORDED - 129

INDEXED - 129

OCT 8 1951

12

COPY IN FILE

6 - Bureau (100-372586)
2 - Washington Field (100-22923) (Info)
1 - New York (65-4747)
1 - OSI, District 18 Maywood (Encl)
3 - Los Angeles

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-5-97 BY SP5 JC Coop

wherein the following portion was noted: "I refer to your several inquiries of me concerning the status of the investigation which was recently conducted concerning certain aspects of your past. I am happy to advise you that this case has been concluded and that the matter has been resolved within the Air Force completely in your favor."

VON KARMAN stated that in view of the above, he, therefore, assumed that the investigation concerning him had been concluded, and he indicated that there was no further need and no desire on his part to sign his previously furnished statement. Subject was again clearly apprised of the voluntary character of this matter and his priviledge to make any choice he preferred.

It is recalled that VON KARMAN, upon originally furnishing his statement, stated that he preferred not to sign it "at this time" and desired instead "to think the matter over." However, in order to bring the matter to a logical conclusion with a definite expression of his choice, he agreed at that time to recontact this office in the immediate future as to his final decision.

VON KARMAN also remarked that he has recently moved his local office as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the U. S. Air Force, from his residence to new quarters in the former Arroyo Vista Hotel, Pasadena, California, where better security is available. This location, he explained, houses the top secret project VISTA sponsored by the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena and for which he is also now contacted as a consultant.

b2
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[redacted] another Government agency conducting security investigations, advised on May 1, 1951 that [redacted] at Aachen, Germany, had furnished the following information upon interview on April 24, 1951:

[redacted] Subject had served in the Austrian Army during World War I. Immediately upon learning in 1916 that the German Army had requested his services, the Austrian Army employed the subject to develop a helicopter. [redacted] believed that the subject became Minister of Culture in Hungary for a short time.

b7D
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According to [redacted] subject accepted the position only because he believed himself to be the most qualified person. Subject was said to be "very difficult to influence" and it was [redacted] opinion that he was never a confirmed Communist.

[redacted] above advised that [redacted] b7C b7D
[redacted] Aachen, Germany, also furnished the following information upon interview on April 24, 1951:

[redacted] the subject had returned from Hungary in 1919. Subject had been an officer in the Austrian Army where he had been utilized as a scientist in developing a helicopter. Immediately following World War I, subject held the position of Minister of Culture in the Hungarian Government. He was sometimes referred to as a Communist by his enemies, but such statements or accusations, according to [redacted] were made concerning any individual who participated in the Hungarian Government under Bela Kun.

b7C
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Subject had two brothers, one of whom had been a bank director and the other a director of a secondary school in Budapest. His father had been a philosopher and died sometime prior to 1919. His mother and sister, the latter being known as "PIPE", both referred to him as "TODOR". "PIPE" was a close friend of [redacted] VON FAKLA, mentioned previously in this investigation.

[redacted] remarked that VON FAKLA was a person of poor character and morals who "utilized" the subject for his personal benefit. It was [redacted] opinion that subject's friendship toward VON FAKLA was activated by the fact that VON FAKLA had aided the subject in escaping from Hungary. VON FAKLA remained in Aachen until 1930, but has not been heard from since.

During the middle 1920's [redacted] stated the subject undertook a private project to produce aircraft fuselages from balsa wood and bakelite. This enterprise proved too costly and he abandoned it. [redacted] further stated that he recently received a letter from [redacted] of the University of Darmstadt at Darmstadt, Germany. [redacted] requested that all [redacted] write a synopsis of their enterprises with the subject and forward it to [redacted]

Detailed accounts of the above were to arrive in the United States not later than "October, 1951". These narratives are to be presented to the subject at the National Congress For Applied Mechanics in Chicago, Illinois on "June 14, 1951".

[redacted] also reported that [redacted] had also furnished the following information upon interview on April 25, 1951:

Subject served as Minister of Culture in the Hungarian Government for a brief period shortly after World War I. [redacted] stated that he was convinced that the subject is not a Communist and never adhered to Communist ideals. Subject returned to Germany in August, 1945 accompanied by [redacted] of the Joy Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; [redacted] now residing in Pasadena, California; [redacted] all of whom were [redacted]

[redacted] above also advised that [redacted] at Goettingen, Germany, had been interviewed on April 26, 1951, at which time he stated that he had first met the subject in [redacted] During their ensuing acquaintance politics were never discussed and he had no knowledge of the subject's activities in the Bela Kun Regime in Hungary. In 1933, during a meeting in Akron, Ohio, subject confided to [redacted] that as a result of excellent resources and equipment afforded him in this country, he would remain in the United States.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] Darmstadt, Germany, was interviewed on April 27, 1951, at which time he stated that [redacted] He was not aware of subject's participation in the Bela Kun Regime. He stated that the subject had been a First Lieutenant in the Austrian Army during World War I and served at an experimental institute in Fischament, near Vienna, Austria. [redacted] related also that the subject, at the time of this interview, was then in Europe and that he had received a letter on the previous day from [redacted] U. S. Air Attache, Paris, France, which stated that the subject had requested to see [redacted] in Paris on May 4, 1951.

b2 b7C b7D

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According to this letter, subject would return from Italy on April 26, 1951 and would depart for the United States on May 6, 1951. [redacted] was aware that the subject is currently a chief scientific advisor of the U. S. Air Force.

b2
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[redacted] a former young officer in the Hungarian Army during the Bela Kun Regime in 1919, advised on June 14, 1951 that he did not recall anyone by the name of VON KARMAN connected with that regime in an official capacity. It is [redacted] contention that if the subject had been an important personality in Hungary during that period, he would certainly remember him.

The Los Angeles Daily News of June 27, 1951 carried an item announcing a farewell reception to be held in honor of forty-six Israeli air students on June 30, 1951 at the Institute of Aeronautical Science, 7660 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, where the main speaker would be Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN. The students were described as having completed one year's training in aeronautics, having been sent to Cal-Aero Institute in Glendale, California to learn American techniques in airplane mechanics in order to be able to maintain the civil and military aircraft of Israeli. [redacted]

b7C

[redacted]

The Los Angeles Times of July 3, 1951 reported the death of subject's sister, Dr. JOSEPHINE de KARMAN on July 2, 1951 as a result of a heart attack suffered at their home, 1501 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California. The article related that she had been noted for her work in the field of International Scientific Relations. She had been a research specialist at the University of Southern California from 1937 to 1940 and had been decorated by the French Government for her work in promoting European goodwill by the organization of Scientific Congresses during the past five years. She was 57 years old and had been born in Budapest, Hungary where she obtained her doctorate and came to this country 21 years ago. She worked in close cooperation with her brother, Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, Chief Scientific Advisor to the U. S. Air Force, who, prior to his acceptance of this position in 1949, had been Director of the Guggenheim Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

LA 105-863

ENCLOSURES: TO OSI, DISTRICT 18, MAYWOOD:

Report of SA [redacted] dated May 31, 1951, at Washington, D.C.

Report of SA [redacted] dated August 2, 1951, at Washington, D.C.

b1c

- CLOSED -

LA 105-863

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS:

b7C

[redacted] OSI report by SA [redacted] dated 5/1/51, OSI file #33-49.

b2

b7D [redacted] [redacted] Paris, France, who was interviewed by the Legal Attache of the American Embassy, Paris, France on 6/14/51. It is observed that on this occasion [redacted] described himself merely as a young officer in the Hungarian Army in the Bela Kun Regime in 1919, whereas during the course of a previous interview in January, 1951, he had indicated that he had worked [redacted] in the Bela Kun Regime.

b7D

REFERENCE:

Los Angeles letter to Bureau and Washington Field Office dated 9/5/51.
Report of SA [redacted] dated 6/13/51 at Los Angeles.

b7C

Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney

October 16, 1951
47582
CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

b7C

Enclosed is one copy of a report by Special Agent [redacted] dated September 27, 1951, at Los Angeles, California.

No further investigation is contemplated concerning this matter.

Attachment

DECLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/lgp
ON 6-17-97

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100-372586

EX.-6

RECORDED-14 | 100-372586-77
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This Case Originated at Los Angeles (105-863) SECRET RS File No. ROL:AM

Report Made at	Date when Made	Period for which Made	Report Made by
Paris, France	12-17-51	6-14;12-4-51	[redacted] b7C

Title
THEODORE VON KARMAN, was
Theodor Karman, Theodore Von Szoelloestcictak

Character of Case
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Synopsis of Facts:

no dissemination warranted. from 12/19/51 [redacted] (5) - RUC - b1

11-1
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

G.I.R.

1cc-Los Angeles
Bay R/S
12-26-51
[illegible]

case closed
LA origin.
Jenner
12-19-51

35-894 65-97
CLASSIFIED BY 3050 C/sgr
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 6

Reference:

[redacted] b7C

Approved and Forwarded	Legal Attache	Do Not Write in These Spaces
Made Available to	Copies of This Report	105-863-73 RECORDED - 16 INDEXED - 16
Embassy M. A. N. A. Others	7-Bureau (100-372586) 1-Paris (100-252)	103 HANDED BY STOP DESK 12/26/51

COPY IN FILE

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61 JAN 9 1952

SECRET

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.

b2 b7D

By memorandum dated December 4, 1951, Confidential Informant

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

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[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

SECRET

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

SOURCE OF INFORMATION b2 b7D [redacted] (S) b1

DISSEMINATION

No copies are being distributed in Paris since the information in this report is of no particular interest to other agencies here.

Sufficient copies of this report are being furnished to the Bureau for transmittal to Los Angeles, the office of origin.

REFERENCE:

b7C Bulet May 9, 1951 and report of SA [redacted] Los Angeles dated April 27, 1951.

April 2, 1952

359.894
DECLASSIFIED BY SP5 SCA
ON 6-17-91

THEODORE VON KARMAN
Born 5-11-81
Budapest, Hungary

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

This Bureau, in October, 1950, instituted a security type investigation of Theodore Von Karman, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, U. S. Air Force, and a consultant on the top secret project, Vista, sponsored by the California Institute of Technology. This investigation was based upon a report from another governmental agency which stated that in 1919, Von Karman, a professor at Cal Tech, was Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs under the Bela Kun (Communist) Communist Government in Hungary. The investigation revealed that he was probably employed by the U. S. Air Force. The Air Force indicated on January 30, 1951, that he was an Air Force employee. Thereafter, the Air Force requested this Bureau to continue its investigation of Von Karman, but not under Executive Order 9835, as he was not subject to the provisions thereof. The Air Force advised that Von Karman had access to practically all classified data. The investigation was reinstituted and reflected that Von Karman was an associate of several Communist Party members and an associate of William Perl, a Soviet Agent, and [redacted] of Mikhail Gorin. Gorin was convicted of Soviet espionage in 1939. Investigation further reflected that Von Karman was friendly with [redacted] an admitted former Communist Party [redacted]

Von Karman was interviewed by agents of this Bureau on May 23, 1951 and May 29, 1951, in Los Angeles, California.

(71

(100-372586-71)

Attachment (1)

RECORDED - 66 100-372586-74

APR 7 1952

Original to Secretary of Defense

EX-99

[redacted] jar

57 APR 19 1952

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

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He admitted that he was connected with the Bela Kun Government in Hungary from March to July, 1919. He denied present or past Communist Party membership and he denied that he had ever furnished classified data to any unauthorized person. He declined to sign a prepared statement, but advised that he desired "to think it over." On September 4, 1951, Von Karman appeared at the Local Office of the FBI in Los Angeles and indicated there was no further need and no desire on his part to sign his previously furnished statement. For your consideration in this connection, there is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 9-27-51, at Los Angeles in the case entitled, "Theodore Von Karman, was; Internal Security - R". b7C

The above information is furnished for your confidential use only and is not to be distributed outside your agency. This is the result of a request for an FBI file check only and is not to be considered as a clearance or nonclearance of the individual involved.

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Buffalo (100-0)

DATE: May 19, 1952

SUBJECT: Professor VON KARMAN
Professor Karman
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

THEODORE VON KARMAN

[redacted]

The above is transmitted for information purposes.

CLASSIFIED BY SP2 CLJ/JS
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LJK:MAH
Classified per CIA Letter dated 4-14-98

RECORDED - 12
INDEXED - 12
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EX-32

59 JUN 23 1952

SECRET

100-372586-75

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 65-5755

DECLASSIFIED BY 354804 SBS JC/mp
ON 6-17-97

July 1, 1952

THEODORE VON KARMAN
B. 5-11-81
Hungary

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

It appears from a review of the records of this Bureau that the Attorney General is already in possession of all the pertinent data on file concerning the above named individual.

It is presumed that that information is available to you. It also appears that the Local Office of INS in New York City is already in possession of the pertinent data on file concerning Theodore Von Karman. It is likewise presumed that this information is available to you. However for your convenience the following information is set forth. (100-372586)

This Bureau, in October, 1950, instituted a security type investigation of Theodore Von Karman, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, U. S. Air Force, and a consultant on the top secret project, Vista, sponsored by the California Institute of Technology. This investigation was based upon a report from another governmental agency which stated that in 1919, Von Karman, a professor at Cal Tech, was Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs under the Bela Kun (Communist) Communist Government in Hungary. The investigation revealed that he was probably employed by the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force indicated on January 30, 1951, that he was an Air Force employee. Thereafter, the Air Force requested this Bureau to continue its investigation of Von Karman, but not under Executive Order 9835, as he was not subject to the provisions thereof. The Air Force advised that Von Karman had access to practically all classified data. The investigation was reinstituted and reflected that Von Karman was an associate of several Communist Party members and an associate of William Perl, a Soviet Agent, and [redacted] b7C

(100-372586-74)

RECORDED-29 100-372586-76
INDEXED-29 18 JUL 31 1952

Original to: [redacted]
Assistant Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

b7C

[redacted] men

58 AUG 5 1952

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] Mikhail Gorin. Gorin was convicted of Soviet espionage in 1939. Investigation further reflected that Von Karman was friendly with [redacted] an admitted former Communist Party member, who [redacted] Von Karman was interviewed by agents of this Bureau on May 23, 1951 and May 29, 1951, in Los Angeles, California. He admitted that he was connected with the Bela Kun Government in Hungary from March to July, 1919. He denied present or past Communist Party membership and he denied that he had ever furnished classified data to any unauthorized person. He declined to sign a prepared statement, but advised that he desired "to think it over." On September 4, 1951, Von Karman appeared at the Local Office of the FBI in Los Angeles and indicated there was no further need and no desire on his part to sign his previously furnished statement.

b7C

The above information is furnished for your confidential use only and is not to be distributed outside of your agency. This is the result of a request for an FBI file check only and is not to be considered as a clearance or nonclearance of the individual involved.

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SAC, Los Angeles (105-863) July 31, 1952

Director, FBI (100-372586) - 77

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

RECORDED-137
EX.-106

Reference is made to the closing report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 27, 1951, at Los Angeles, California, concerning captioned subject. b7C

[redacted] Office of Special Investigations, U. S. Air Force, informed that Von Karman recently traveled to Europe where he was introduced to [redacted] Von Karman casually mentioned to [redacted] that he had a brother in Hungary who, for some time, has been attempting to gain entrance into Chile. [redacted] allegedly stated to Von Karman, "Maybe we can do something for you." b7C

According to [redacted] Von Karman has now returned to the United States but he has heard nothing more from [redacted] Von Karman has stated that he will inform the FBI if he receives any further word from [redacted]

Los Angeles is requested to interview Von Karman and to secure complete details concerning his meeting with [redacted] any additional pertinent remarks by [redacted] and further identifying data concerning Von Karman's brother, including his full name. Von Karman should be requested to immediately contact the Bureau if he receives word from [redacted] b7C

This matter should be afforded expeditious attention and the results furnished to the Bureau in report form.

cc - 2 - Washington Field (For Information) (100-22923)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-5-97 BY SP5

Director
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Laughlin

Mr. Baumgardner
Mr. Branigan
Mr. Callan
Mr. H. L. Edwards
Mr. Hennrich
Mr. Scatterday
Mr. Stanley

Miss
Room

Ident. Div.
Rm. 7229
Mail Room
Rm. 5533
Reading Room
Rm. 5531

Records Section
Routing Unit
Send file
up-to-date
Send reference
Place on record
and return

See Me
Phone Me
Please

Mr. Keay
[redacted]
Room 3708
[redacted]
Mr. Bates
[redacted]
Mr. Conroy
[redacted]
Mr. Daunt
[redacted]
[redacted]
Mr. Roach
[redacted]
Mr. D. J. Sullivan
[redacted]
Mr. W. C. Sullivan
[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-5-92 BY SP5 SCB

b7C

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9/9/52 [redacted] advised that Von Karman called on him personally upon his return from Europe & gave him the info. — N. W. PHNLC

(over)

Von Karman is connected with the Fulbright Foundation & as such spends a considerable amount of time in Europe. His return [redacted] conversation with [redacted] was a very casual one & conversation lasted only a few minutes — [redacted] tried to get further details from Von Karman at time but [redacted] has no objection to Von K. being interviewed.

b7C

051 had no coverage on Von K. in Europe

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. V. P. KEAY

DATE: July 17, 1952

FROM : [redacted] b7C

SUBJECT: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN,
CHAIRMAN, SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD,
U.S. AIR FORCE;
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT

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This is to record information received from [redacted] Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

He advised that he had received information via Air Force channels that Dr. Von Karman, one of the outstanding scientists of the United States, had recently made a trip to Europe. During his visit there, he had been introduced to [redacted] b7C Von Karman stated that he had casually mentioned that he has a brother in Hungary who has been trying for some time to gain entrance to Chile. According to Von Karman, [redacted] stated, "Maybe we can do something for you." According to [redacted] did not enlarge upon this situation to Von Karman and Von Karman has heard nothing further from [redacted] Von Karman is presently back in the United States and has advised that he will immediately contact the FBI if he receives any further word or advances from [redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this memorandum be forwarded to Supervisor [redacted] of the Espionage Section.

b7C

[redacted]
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-5-97 BY SP5CCP/pm

NWP:hke

RECORDED-137

105-[redacted]-77

file 100-372586

re-open case

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

FROM : W. A. Branigan

DATE: July 31, 1952

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

PURPOSE:

OSI reported that Theodore Von Karman recently met [redacted] in Europe and Von Karman informed [redacted] that his brother was attempting to leave Hungary for Chile. [redacted] allegedly replied, "Maybe we can do something for you."

It is recommended that Von Karman be interviewed for complete details concerning this incident.

DETAILS:

Reference is made to the memorandum from [redacted] to Mr. Keay dated July 17, 1952, informing that [redacted] OSI, stated that Theodore Von Karman recently visited Europe. While abroad, Von Karman was introduced to [redacted] Von Karman casually mentioned to [redacted] that his brother in Hungary was attempting to go to Chile. [redacted] allegedly stated, "Maybe we can do something for you."

According to [redacted] Von Karman has heard nothing further from [redacted] Von Karman has now returned to the United States and has stated that he would immediately contact the FBI if he received any further word from [redacted]

[redacted] stated he has no objection to Von Karman being interviewed by the Bureau.

As you are aware [redacted] publicly admitted member of the Communist Party.

Von Karman is a well-known aerodynamicist of Hungarian birth, presently employed by the U. S. Air Force as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board. He was investigated by the Bureau in 1951, because of reported

100-372586
Attachment
JEM:mes:dmd

INDEXED-137
RECORDED-137
AUG 12 1952

[redacted]

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-3-97 BY [redacted]

past CP membership in Hungary. Investigation reflected he associated with several CP members and with William Perl, a known Soviet agent. During the investigation, Von Karman admitted to Bureau Agents that he was an official in the Bela Kun Government (Communist) in Hungary in 1919. He denied present or past CP membership and he denied that he had ever furnished classified data to unauthorized persons. He has been interviewed on several occasions concerning William Perl and other matters and he has been cooperative.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Von Karman be interviewed for complete details concerning his recent contact with [redacted] b7C

If you agree, there are attached for your approval appropriate instructions to the field.

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
LOS ANGELES	8/28/52	8/15/52	[redacted] pam

TITLE
THEODORE VON KARMAN, was

CHARACTER OF CASE
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

AGENCY lcc [redacted]
REQ. REC'D 12-[redacted]-54
REP'T FORW. 1-15-55
BY

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN had occasion to meet [redacted] in May, 1952, at a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences in Paris, France. Upon learning of VON KARMAN's brother and latter's wife, MIKLOS (NICHOLAUS) and MARGIT KARMAN, living in Hungary and unable to get exit passports to leave that country, [redacted] remarked, "Maybe we can do something for you." No other explanation made. In compliance with [redacted] suggestion, VON KARMAN, on June 6, 1952, furnished him their names and personal data and also advised United States Air Force authorities at the same time. No further word received from [redacted] to date.

AGENCY [redacted] State Dept
REQ. REC'D 6-26-56
REP'T FORW. 7-13-54
BY

- C -

DETAILS:

b2 [redacted], another Government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, advised that Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN was recently in Europe where he met [redacted] VON KARMAN casually mentioned to [redacted] that he had a brother in Hungary, who for some time had been attempting to gain entrance into Chile, whereupon [redacted] allegedly stated to VON KARMAN, "Maybe we can do something for you."

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL DISSEMINATION

Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, who recently returned from Paris, France, and is temporarily at his residence, 1501 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California, was interviewed

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPY IN FILE		100-372586-79
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		SEP 3 1952
6 - Bureau (100-372586) (Reg.)		SE-32
1 - Washington Field (100-22923) (Info) (Reg.)		RECORDED - 35
3 - Los Angeles (105-863)		INDEXED - 35
		EX - 28

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on August 15, 1952, in connection with the above matter, at which time he furnished substantially the following information:

During the course of a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences at Paris this past May, VON KARMAN again had occasion to meet [redacted] whom he had known from previous scientific gatherings, including the 1945 Moscow Meeting of the 220th Anniversary of the Academy of Sciences of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

After expressing his regrets to VON KARMAN on the death of his sister, JOSEPHINE DE KARMAN, last summer and his failure to contact him earlier, [redacted] inquired if he had any other relatives. VON KARMAN responded that he had a brother and the latter's wife in Budapest and that he had been unable to get them passports to leave Hungary and enter Chile. [redacted] then remarked, "Maybe we can do something for you," and he suggested that VON KARMAN put on paper the name, address and personal data about his brother and his wife. No other discussion whatever took place regarding this incident. No promises, threats, bribes or inducements were made by [redacted]

Thereafter, on June 6, 1952, in compliance with [redacted] previous suggestion and prompted by the possibility of some assistance, he wrote to [redacted] A substantial translation of VON KARMAN's copy of this letter, written in French and made available to the writer, is as follows:

"June 6, 1952

[redacted]

Antony/Seine

"Cher [redacted]

"In accordance with the recent conversations which we had on the occasion of our meeting at the Academy of Sciences, you were kind enough to tell me that you would give me aid in helping my brother and his wife in obtaining permission to leave Hungary.

"As I told you, He and his wife are my only relatives since the death of my sister, whom you knew very well.

b7C

"In accordance with your suggestion, I am furnishing you the address and other information.

"Dr. MIKLOS KARMAN; born in Budapest in 1884; address, 3 Molotov Ter, Budapest; employment, retired bank employee, incapable of working.

"MARGIT KARMAN, nee DUKESZ, his wife; born in 1895; without profession.

"It is useless for me to say I would be very happy if the Hungarian Government would allow a passport to be issued to him and his wife. I may depart from Paris in a few days and will not return until September. Will you please address any communication in my absence to [redacted] Paris 13e.

"With my most sincere thanks to you for granting me this favor, my dear [redacted] I am

"Your friend,

"THEODORE v. KARMAN"

On the same date that the above letter was written, VON KARMAN also wrote to [redacted] Department of the Air Force, Office of the Chief of Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D. C., setting forth in detail his above-described meeting with [redacted] and the action taken by him. In view of [redacted] VON KARMAN expressed a desire that [redacted] be apprised of the circumstances "just in case some special service discovers that I was in contact with [redacted]

Dr. VON KARMAN explained to the writer that this contact with [redacted] was the only one made with him during his stay in Paris since early last fall.

It is recalled that VON KARMAN during the past year had been in Paris where he has been lecturing at the Sarbonne. He also has recently been made chairman of a newly organized Research and Development Board of NATO with headquarters in Paris and also continues to be chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the United States Air Force.

b7C

VON KARMAN stated that he has not received any acknowledgment from [redacted] of the above-mentioned letter and has not otherwise heard from him since that time.

VON KARMAN described [redacted] as a Communist [redacted]

VON KARMAN explained too that for approximately a year he has endeavored to get his brother, Dr. MIKLOS (NICHOLAUS) KARMAN, and his wife, MARGIT KARMAN, out of Hungary. He arranged to get two visas for them to enter Chile in view of the quota restrictions on entering the United States. The Hungarian Government has, however, consistently refused their application for an exit permit to leave that country. VON KARMAN stated that he is at a loss to understand their refusal to grant them an exit passport. He added, however, that the Hungarian Government would definitely have a financial interest in a citizen of that country who was an heir to an estate. Upon his sister's death in Pasadena, California, in July, 1951, his brother became one of the heirs, and a representative for the Hungarian Government made an appearance in Los Angeles in connection with a probate of his sister's estate in November, 1951. VON KARMAN is unable to determine whether his brother's inability to leave Hungary is connected with this estate settlement or whether it is because of other unknown reasons.

VON KARMAN stated that his brother is approximately sixty-eight years old and was formerly a director of a bank in Budapest until it was nationalized by the Hungarian Government about three years ago. He was then forced to retire on a small pension.

VON KARMAN theorized that if the estate settlement has any bearing on Hungary's action, then it must balance [redacted] influence, if any, in allowing an exit permit to be issued as against the monetary gain which would accrue to Hungary from one of its citizens being an heir to an estate. In the meanwhile, final estate settlement is purposely being held up locally in order not to jeopardize his brother's chances of leaving the country if that has not yet entered the picture.

VON KARMAN advised that he will depart from Pasadena at the end of August to attend a symposium at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston, Massachusetts, during the first

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SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

week of September. He will thereafter be in Washington, D. C., for about a week to attend Scientific Advisory Board Meetings prior to his return to Paris.

- C -

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

b2 b7C

SOURCE: [redacted] OSI, United States Air Force, Washington, D. C., as reflected in Bulet dated July 31, 1952.

1. Upon his return from Paris in early June, 1952, VON KARMAN also advised [redacted] as indicated above.

2. VON KARMAN's copy of his letter to [redacted] dated June 6, 1952, made available to the writer is as follows:

"June 6th 1952

"14, rue de la Cure
Paris, 16e, France

[redacted]

Department of the Air Force
Office of the Chief Air Staff
Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

b7C

"Dear [redacted]

"You will remember that about a year ago you kindly helped me to get into contact with the Ambassador of Chile in order to obtain a visa for my brother and his wife. Later [redacted] was also kind enough to write a letter of recommendation to the Ambassador of the Chilean Government and the Government of Chile granted the two visas.

"However, a new difficulty has arisen because the Communist Government in Hungary consistently refused my brother's application for an exit passport.

"Last month, in the French Academy of Sciences, I ran into [redacted] (we both are members of the Academie, as well as General EISENHOWER, for that matter). You will remember [redacted] when he came to

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

lunch with us at the Ritz. It was the first time that I saw him since my sister died. He inquired if I had other relations and I told him that I have a brother in Budapest and that I was unable to get a passport for him to leave Hungary. He told me that possibly something could be done about this and asked me to put on paper the name, address and personal data about my brother and his wife.

"Now I should like to ask you a personal favor, provided it is not disagreeable to you. I understand that [redacted] is seriously ill and that [redacted] is the Acting Chief. I wonder if you would be kind enough to see [redacted] and tell him how [redacted] helped me to obtain a visa for my brother, tell him about the difficulties of my brother to obtain the visa and tell him about my meeting [redacted] as I have written above. I do not want any kind of permission or any official cognizance of this matter. However, I prefer if [redacted] knows about it just in case some special service discovers that I was in contact with [redacted] He was certainly mean in the matter of biological warfare and also not very intelligent. However, I believe that he is under command of the party and cannot do as he pleases.

"I am in indirect contact with my brother and what I know of him comes to me by way of letters to my New York attorney by some underground way from Austria. I thought it was better for me not to write him direct.

"Now, dear [redacted] I tell you this story and if you think it is all right to tellthis to [redacted] please go to him and give him this information for me. If you do not like the idea, I shall wait and talk with the General myself after my return to the States.

"I have not heard from you for a long time and of your plans for the future. Be sure to drop me a line to the following address:

/b7C

LA 105-863

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

"Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research
and Development
Palais de Chaillot
Paris, France

"Room 332

"In old friendship,

"Very cordially yours,

"THEODORE v. KARMAN"

3. Identity of the subject's brother was previously set forth in writer's report dated June 13, 1951, Page 9.

4. VON KARMAN advised that in the event he is recontacted by [redacted] he will immediately advise the Federal Bureau of Investigation. b7C

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated July 31, 1952.

RECORDED-65
100-372586-80

Date: November 6, 1953

EX-110

To: [redacted] b7C
Director, Security Division
Office of the Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

354-894
DECLASSIFIED BY SP5SC/bpm
ON 6-3-97

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases
Theoder Karman
Theodore Von Szoelloestcictak

Reference is made to your communication dated October 20, 1953, furnishing information concerning captioned subject. Your communication stated that the data contained therein had not been furnished to any member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Standing Group pending a decision as to what action will be taken by this Bureau.

You are advised that an investigation of the subject was previously conducted by this Bureau in 1951-52, and copies of investigative reports were furnished to the Director of Special Investigations, The Inspector General, Department of the Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C., and to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice inasmuch as the subject was Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the U. S. Air Force.

No additional investigation concerning this matter is contemplated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation inasmuch as the data appearing in referenced communication was disclosed in our investigation.

cc - 2 - Los Angeles (with cc of incoming) (105-863)

JEM:elc

COMM - FBI
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Section 552

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Section 552a

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CAUTION - [illegible] NOT BE DISSEMINATED [illegible] MUST
MR. LADD.

b7C
b7D

MEMORANDUM TO [redacted] Re: Info from Confidential [redacted] 10/27/53

I spoke to my informant this morning about Theodore von Karman, who is now Chief of the Scientific Advisory Board, Office of the Chief of the Air Force. This informant advised that Theodore von Karman is a scientist of world-wide fame, and and expert on "aviation balance" (he works on the balance apparatus for the various aircraft that are designed and produced.)

During the Communist regime of Bela Kun in Hungary in 1919, the man was very badly compromised, and as a result after the overthrow of that regime, he had to leave the country because he was a Communist. During the last war he was held in high esteem, and worked in high technical positions for the Government.

The informant further states that van Karman's political record in the past has been distinctly bad and objectionable, but since von Karman has been over here informant has heard nothing whatsoever of his activities. This, informant adds, might be either great precaution on his (von Karman's) part, or it might be a change of heart.

With regard to his not being an American citizen, informant thinks that might be an indication that perhaps there has been a change of heart with regard to Communism on his part, for, as informant says, if he were doing a job for the Communists in his present position or over here in any position, he would camouflage his intents and purposes by becoming a citizen.

CAUTION - [illegible] NOT BE DISSEMINATED [illegible] MUST
MR. LADD.

354-894
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DATE 6-5-97 SP5JC/mgm

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CAUTION - [illegible] NOT BE DISSEMINATED [illegible] MUST
MR. LADD.

RECORDED-14 62-370[illegible]-8
EX-102 25 OCT 29 1953

6 NOV 10 [illegible]

SECRET

American Embassy
Paris 8, France

47579

Date: December 28, 1953

To: Director, FBI (105-23010)

From: Legal Attache, Paris (105-576)

Subject: [redacted] b1C

INTERNAL SECURITY - R & FR

[redacted] 6-5-97
CLASSIFIED BY S35J/KSP
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1

ReBulet November 30, 1953.

The indices of the Paris office reveal that a Bureau representative was in personal contact with the captioned subject in Paris in November 1951, and on several occasions thereafter, in connection with arrangements for personal interview with Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, subject of Bufile 100-372586. The Bureau was informed of this contact with subject [redacted] set forth on the administrative page of the report of S[redacted] dated March 10, 1952, at Paris, France and entitled "Unknown subject, [redacted] was. [redacted] Espionage - R", Bufile 65-59543. b1 b1C

In calling upon the Paris office on November 16, 1951, this subject revealed himself to be [redacted] At that time, subject indicated that he had been associated with VON KARMAN casually for the previous four years, explaining that he (subject) [redacted] As the Bureau is aware, VON KARMAN is presently Chairman of the NATO Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development, having been so designated in March 1952.

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On December 17, 1953 [redacted] VON KARMAN was using him mostly as a [redacted]

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100-372586-✓
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Director, FBI

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47550

Re: [redacted]
IS-R & FR

and that the professional aspects of his contact with VON KARMAN had turned out to be nil. Since [redacted] had accepted the position in the hope of deriving professional advantages from the contact, he left the position upon learning that it had no possibilities for him. [redacted]

[redacted]

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100-372586 — 82

RECORDED - 23

EX-129

SECRET VIA LIAISON

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b7C

Date: July 16, 1954

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

CLASSIFIED BY SP5JC/kpv
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1
classified per CIA letter dated 9/9/91

Subject: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases
Theodor Karman,
Theodore Von Szoelloestotetak
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Class. & Ext. By SP7 Xcl/pde 11/12/91
Reason-FOIM II, 1-2 4.2 2.3
Date of Review 11/12/91

[redacted] (S)

b1

For your information and assistance, there is attached a memorandum containing a summary of pertinent information concerning Theodore Von Karman from our files.

Attachment

cc - 2 - Los Angeles (105-863) (Attached is copy of memo referred to above; [redacted] (S)

ATTENTION: SAC, Los Angeles should immediately submit a report (7 copies for Bureau) suitable for dissemination containing pertinent information [redacted]

b1

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS ARE BEING ADVISED OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS MEMO AND/OR ENCLOSURES DATED 11-13-91 ltr/enc

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
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CC ONLY
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COMM-FBI

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100-372586 - 82 July 16, 1954

RECORDED - 23

EX-129

Re: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases
Theodor Karman,
Theodore Von Szoellosztotztak

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in October, 1950, instituted a security type investigation of Theodore Von Karman, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, U. S. Air Force, and a consultant on the top secret project, Vista, sponsored by the California Institute of Technology. This investigation was based upon report from another governmental agency which stated that in 1919, Von Karman, a professor at Cal Tech, was Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs under the Bela Kun (Communist) Communist G[redacted] in Hungary. The investigation revealed that he was probably employed by the U. S. Air Force. The Air Force indicated on January 30, 1951, that he was an Air Force employee. Thereafter, the Air Force requested this Bureau to continue its investigation of Von Karman, but not under Executive Order 9835, as he was not subject to the provisions thereof. The Air Force advised that Von Karman had access to practically all classified data. The investigation was reinstituted and reflected that Von Karman was an associate of several Communist Party members and an associate of William Perl, a Soviet Agent, and [redacted] Mikhail Gorin. Gorin was convicted of Soviet espionage in 1939. Investigation further reflected that Von Karman was friendly with [redacted] an admitted former Communist Party member. [redacted]

Von Karman was interviewed by agents of this Bureau on May 23, 1951, and May 29, 1951, in Los Angeles, California. He admitted that he was connected with

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This Blank Memo is being prepared

[redacted] fjm

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-2-

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Bela Kun Government in Hungary from March to July, 1919. He denied present or past Communist Party membership and he denied that he had ever furnished classified data to any unauthorized person. He declined to sign a prepared statement, but advised that he desired "to think it over." On September 4, 1951, Von Karman appeared at the Los Angeles office of this Bureau and indicated there was no further need and no desire on his part to sign his previously furnished statement. (X)

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OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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☑ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
National Security Act of 1947 & CIA Act of 1949	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
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☐ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

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100-372586-82 pg 4

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FBI/DOJ

CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

(SS4894) 5-1398
CLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/pm
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Los Angeles

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
Los Angeles	8/27/54	8/26/54	[redacted] HWP b1C

TITLE
THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.

CHARACTER OF CASE
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

AGENCY ICC [redacted] b2 Re: bro
REQ. REC'D 8/28/54
REP'T FORW. 11/5/55 Nivdas
BY Jan/DD Von Karman

AGENCY ICC-SJA 6-26-56
REQ. REC'D
REP'T FORW. 7-13-56
BY ALF 1cnb

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

b1 [redacted]

AGENCY Photo Unit, CSC
REQ. REC'D 8-12-59
REP'T FORW. 8-19-59 9-C-
BY Wm Leahy Re: Associate Lee Arnold Spec. req.

(S) b2 [redacted] another Government agency conducting intelligence investigations advised on

b1 [redacted] (S)

AGENCY CCH OSI (0-14); ICCH NRA-Dec. of Security (0-6a); 1107 FBI (5-54); 1107 S (0-6)-
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW.
HOW FORW.
BY

AGENCY Photo Unit
REQ. REC'D 1-15-58
REP'T FORW. 1-24-58
BY Alf Unit

b7C [redacted]

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: JJM ork
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

53 RECORDED-62
INDEXED-62
EX-121
REC 55 1880
SEP 10 1956

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

(7) - Bureau (100-372586) REGISTERED 2 cc-CSC
1 - WFO (Info.)(100-22923) REGISTERED 1 cc w/ltr 8-28-54
3 - Los Angeles (105-863)

COPY IN FILE

SECRET

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SECRET

LA 105-863

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

[redacted] (S) b1

REFERENCE: Bureau letter [redacted] (S)

HOTEL EL CORTEZ

GEARY ST. NEAR TAYLOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

OTHER FRITZ HOTELS IN SAN FRANCISCO
•
HUNTINGTON HOTEL
•
HOTEL SUTTER
•
PARK LANE APARTMENTS
•
BROCKLEBANK APARTMENTS

354 Mg
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-5-97 BY [redacted]

Dear Mr. Howe —

The enclosure is self-explanatory.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

b7C

Aug 16, 1954
Mr. J. H. Howe (4)
Director, FBI
Washington, D.C.

Exp

Memo Belmont
8-26-54
Lpt to DAG
9-1-54
JEM:ebk

RECORDED - 77

1 77

Advance letter from [redacted] 8/24/54

J.E.M.

EXP

AUG 19 1954

August 16,1954

Professor Theodor von Karman
Pasadena Calif.

Dear Sir:

Your name, mentioned in the New York Times of August 2nd in a dispatch from Innsbruck, Austria, about rockets, interests me.

Some time ago I was informed in New York that a professor von Karman, in California, had been a member of the abortive Communist regime of Bela Kuhn in Hungary in the early twenties.

I should like to know if you are this person; and, if so, were you at the time a member of the Communist organization in Hungary?

Since I am asking these questions -- making no statement or implication of fact, of course -- due to my active interest as a citizen in national security for the United States, I am sending a copy of this letter to J.Edgar Hoover, director of the F.B.I.

Needless to say, I hope it proves to be the case that you are not the same person -- that you were never a member of the Communist conspiracy; and, until the facts are proven one way or the other, I'll reserve judgment.

Your reply will reach me at my address in New York City -- [redacted] b7C

[redacted]

354-894
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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-5-97 BY SP5 JC [illegible]

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: August 26, 1954

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: DR. THEODOR VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(100-372586)

b7C [redacted]

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(100-355122)

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

b7C [redacted]

By letter dated August 16, 1954, [redacted] furnished a copy of a letter, same date, which he wrote to Theodor Von Karman asking Von Karman if he was formerly a member of the Bela Kun Communist regime in Hungary in the early 1920's. Set forth below is pertinent information concerning [redacted] and Theodor Von Karman:

[redacted]

[redacted] He has been anti-Administration, anti-Selective Service and anti-Communist. He has corresponded with the Bureau since 1948 and he allegedly criticized the Bureau in a speech before [redacted] in Detroit, Michigan, in 1948. Since 1948 he has praised the Bureau and the Director. On June 26, 1954, he inquired by letter if the FBI requested the presidents of Temple and Denver Universities to retain on their faculties individuals considered to be security risks. We informed [redacted] that our policy precludes furnishing such information. Former president of Denver University was interviewed and stated no such request had been made by the FBI. President of Temple University stated it was his impression that such a request may have been made of an official of the University. Additional inquiries failed to substantiate this allegation.

b7C

Theodor Von Karman

Investigation of Von Karman was conducted in 1951 at specific request of Air Force. Von Karman is naturalized U. S. citizen, world's leading aerodynamicist and Chairman of Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. No derogatory data developed during investigation. Upon interview, Von Karman admitted on

RECORDED - 77

85

Attachment

JEM:elc

354-894

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SEP 14 1954

ESP. SEC

May 29, 1951, he had been Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs in Bela Kun's Government in Hungary in 1919 for a short period of time. He denied past or present CP membership. Pertinent information furnished to interested Government agencies.

RECOMMENDATION:

b7C [redacted] It is recommended that New York interview [redacted] for any information he may have concerning possible Communist activities by Theodor Von Karman, and at the same time his communication to the Bureau can be orally acknowledged. If you agree, a letter to New York is attached.

SAC, New York

August 26, 1954

RECORDED

Director, FBI

DR. THEODOR VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-372586)

[redacted]

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Bufile 100-355122)

By letter dated August 16, 1954, on the letterhead of Hotel El Cortez, San Francisco, California, [redacted] New York City, furnished a copy of a letter he wrote under date of August 16, 1954, to Theodor Von Karman. [redacted] asked Von Karman concerning his past Communist affiliations. A copy of the letter from Long to Von Karman is attached.

b7C

You should contact [redacted] at his New York City address at the earliest possible time, orally acknowledge his letter to the Director dated August 16, 1954, and ask him concerning any available information in his possession concerning the past Communist activities of Theodor Von Karman. You should inform the Bureau of the results of the interview with [redacted] at the earliest possible time.

A copy of this communication with attachment is being designated for San Francisco. In the event New York is unable to locate [redacted] at his New York residence, San Francisco should be requested by teletype to handle the matter.

Attachment

cc - 2 - San Francisco (Attachment)

JEM:elc

RECEIVED
AUG 27 1954
FBI - NEW YORK

Hoover
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

MAILED 8
AUG 26 1954
COMM-FBI

354-894

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-3-97 BY SP5 TC/pgm

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIR-TEL

8/31/54, NEW YORK

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN; IS-R (BUFILE 100-372586);
[redacted] MISCELLANEOUS-INFORMATION CONCERNING
(BUFILE 100-355122). RE BULET, 8/26/54. INQUIRY AT
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CLUB, NYC, REFLECTS THAT [redacted]
[redacted] IS NOW LIVING AT THE LOS ANGELES ATHLETIC CLUB,
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN
TO NY FOR AT LEAST A MONTH. A COPY OF BULET DATED
8/26/54 AND COPY OF LETTER OF [redacted] TO PROFESSOR
THEODORE VON KARMAN DATED 8/16/54 ARE BEING FORWARDED AS
ATTACHMENTS HERETO TO LOS ANGELES. LOS ANGELES WILL CONTACT
[redacted] AT THE LOS ANGELES ATHLETIC CLUB, ORALLY ACKNOWLEDGE
HIS LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR DATED 8/16/54 AND QUESTION HIM

RECORDED - 162

4 - BUREAU (100-372586)
(1 - BUFILE 100-355122)
2 - LOS ANGELES (105-863) (Encs. 2) (REGISTERED AM)
2 - SAN FRANCISCO (REGISTERED AM)
1 - NY 100-90576

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SEP 8 1983

RECORDED
27 SEP 1 1954

JAH:EAM (# 6)
65-6747

354804
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-3-92 BY SP5JC

Mr. Belmont

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

b7C

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

ABOUT ANY INFO HE MAY POSSESS CONCERNING THE PAST COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES OF VON KARMAN. LOS ANGELES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM THE BUREAU OF THE RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] FOR THE FURTHER INFO OF LOS ANGELES, NY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY THE BUREAU THAT [redacted] HE HAS BEEN ANTI-ADMINISTRATION AND HAS OPPOSED THE SELECTIVE SERVICE PROGRAM. IN A SPEECH BEFORE A [redacted] IN DETROIT IN 1948 HE REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THE BUREAU. THE BUREAU HAS HAD CORDIAL CORRESPONDENCE SINCE THAT TIME AND ON OCCASION [redacted]AS SUBMITTED SEVERAL ARTICLES AND BOOKLETS [redacted]TO THE BUREAU.

b7C

[redacted]

b7C

Approved: _____ Sent _____M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

FD-36

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to:

FBI, LOS ANGELES(105-863) 9/9/54 9:30 A.M.

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-372586; 100-355122)

DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN; IS-R (BUFILE 100-372586);

[redacted] MISCELLANEOUS-INFORMATION CONCERNING

b7C

(BUFILE 100-355122). RE NEW YORK AIRTEL 8/31/54 AND ATTACHED ENCLOSURES. INQUIRY AT LOS ANGELES ATHLETIC CLUB, LOS ANGELES, REFLECTS [redacted] CHECKED OUT ON 9/4/54 INDICATING HE WAS RETURNING TO NEW YORK CITY. RUC.

MALONE

2CC: NEW YORK(100-90576; 65-6747)REGISTERED-AIR MAIL
2CC: SAN FRANCISCO(REGISTERED-AIR MAIL)

REGISTERED
AIR MAIL

JPA:HWP

354-894

6 3-97 SP5JC/DPM

INDEXED

EX-125

[redacted] b7C

ESPIONAGE

Approved:_____ Sent_____M Per_____
Special Agent in Charge

100-372586-87

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

AIR-TEL

SEPTEMBER 21, 1954

SAC, NEW YORK

47578

DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN, INTERNAL SECURITY - R, BUFILE 100-372586; [redacted] MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING, BUFILE 100-355122. BULET AUGUST 26, LAST, REQUESTED THAT [redacted] BE INTERVIEWED. LOS ANGELES AIR-TEL SEPTEMBER 9, LAST, INFORMED [redacted] LEFT LOS ANGELES FOR NEW YORK. EXPEDITE INTERVIEW AND SUREP RESULTS.

HOOVER

JEM:jla

b7C

354-894
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DATE 6-3-97 BY SP5 JC/CMA

MAILED 11
SEP 21 1954
COMM-FBI

RECORDED-20

EX-110

SEP 22 1954

113

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

58 SEP 27 1954

SAC, New York

October 4, 19

Director, FBI

DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Buffile 100-372586) — 89

RECORDED - 86
EX-103 [redacted]

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Buffile 100-355122)

Reurmemo dated September 27, 1954, replying to Bureau memorandum dated August 26, 1954.

b7C

Bureau memo dated August 26, 1954, instructed that [redacted] be contacted and asked regarding his knowledge of past Communist activities of Theodore Von Karman.

Your reply dated September 27, 1954, does not reflect that you inquired of [redacted] as instructed.

Advise immediately what [redacted] related concerning the past activities of Von Karman. If [redacted] was not asked concerning this matter, recontact him and advise by memorandum no later than October 10, 1954.

JEM:sjr

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-3-97 BY [redacted]

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

F-387

MAILED 3
OCT - 4 1954
COMM-FBI

OCT 12 1954

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F.B.I.
RECORDS SECTION ROOM

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-372586) DATE: 9/27/54

FROM : SAC, New York (65-6747)

SUBJECT: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN
IS - R

[redacted]

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION
CONCERNING

ReBulet 8/26/54 and Los Angeles air-tel 9/9/54.

On 9/20/54 [redacted] was contacted at his residence, [redacted] NYC. He was advised of the receipt by the Director of his letter of 8/16/54 and he was asked whether he had received any reply from Dr. VON KARMAN. He advised he had not received any communication from Dr. VON KARMAN and believed he would not receive any reply to his inquiry. He advised that he had been in Los Angeles during the latter part of August but that he did not call Dr. VON KARMAN at his residence in Pasadena. He stated, "I suppose he is still in Austria." He advised that in the event he did receive any reply from Dr. VON KARMAN he would notify this office.

For the information of the Bureau, a representative of OSI contacted this office on 9/22/54 for information concerning [redacted] The OSI representative advised that an urgent request had come in from the Chief of Staff of the Air Force in Washington, D. C., for available information in various agencies concerning [redacted]

In the event that [redacted] contacts this office in the future the Bureau will be promptly advised. C

1 - Bureau (100-355122)

Reg. Mail

1 - NY (100-90576)

RECORDED-42 89

11 SEP 28 1954

EX-124

JAH:DC

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-3-92 BY [redacted]

b7C

SAC, New York

September 28, 1

Director, FBI

DR. THEODOR VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bureau file 100-372586)

[redacted]

47577

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Bureau file 100-355122)

Reurlet 85 dated August 25, 1954, and Bu teletype dated September 21, 1954, requesting New York to interview [redacted] concerning his knowledge of Theodor VonKarman.

b7C

Attached is a Photostat (two pages and envelope) of a communication dated August 20, 1954, addressed to [redacted] the State Department from [redacted] which concerns Dr. VonKarman. The Photostat was received from the State Department.

Attachment

cc - 2 - San Francisco (Attachment)

1 ENCL

RECORDED-41

100-372586-90

13 SEP 29 1954

EX - 107

359-899
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-3-97 BY [redacted]

JEM:plu

Tolson
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Belmont
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Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman

55 OCT 4 1954

COMM - FBI
SEP 28 1954
MAILED 80

DEC 58 5 12 BH '54

DEC 58 5 12 BH '54

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☐ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
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☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
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FBI/DOJ

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-372586)

DATE: 10/8/54

FROM : SAC, New York (65-6747)

SUBJECT: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN
IS - R

47576

[redacted]

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Rebulet 10/4/54.

When [redacted] was contacted on 9/20/54 he was asked whether he had any information concerning the past Communist activities of DR. VON KARMAN. He advised that he did not have any information concerning VON KARMAN or any of his Communist activities. He stated the only information he had concerning VON KARMAN was the fact that his name was mentioned in the "New York Times" of 8/2/54. This office has not received any further information from [redacted]

1 - BU 100-355122
1 - NY 100-90576

b7C

Substance to DST memo dated 11/1/54.

354 804
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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-3-92 BY SP5JC

RECORDED - 42 [illegible] - 91

RECORDED
8 OCT 11 1954

ESP SEC

55 OCT 14 1954

1 NOV 2 1954

Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. R. R. ROACH

FROM : MR. C. W. [redacted]

DATE: January 19, 1955

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, wa.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT
100-372586

354894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-2-97 BY [redacted]

b1C

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) requested an applicant-type investigation of Von Karman in February, 1954, in view of his position with the Scientific Advisory Board of the Air Force. The Bureau conducted an Internal Security - R investigation of the subject in 1951 and 1952 based on an allegation that Von Karman was once an official of a Communist government in Hungary. Investigation reflected that he associated with several Communist Party members and with William Perl, known Soviet agent. He admitted to Bureau Agents during the investigation that he was an official in the Bela Kun Government (Communist) in Hungary in 1919. He denied present or past Communist Party membership. Copies of all the Bureau's reports in the Atomic Energy Act - Applicant and Internal Security investigations have been furnished to the Air Force and to the Atomic Energy Commission.

b1C

[redacted] Washington Area Security Office, AEC, advised Liaison Agent Bates on January 18, 1955, that in accordance with the AEC clearance procedures, the Air Force was asked by the AEC to obtain certain information from Van Karman so that the AEC could make a clearance determination since the Air Force had originally requested the atomic energy clearance. On December 20, 1954, Von Karman wrote a letter to [redacted] of the AEC. He referred to the AEC letter to the Air Force in which the AEC had requested a statement from Von Karman concerning certain derogatory information. Von Karman referred specifically to the request for a statement from him concerning "Alexander Goetz with whom Von Karman's deceased sister is reported to have been friendly and whose political ideology is allegedly strongly pro-Nazi."

RECORDED - 92

In Von Karman's letter to [redacted] he stated that he considered the above quote an inexcusable insult against the memory of his "beloved sister." He stated he could not see what such a statement had to do with his access to atomic information.

254

He requested that (1) those responsible for this incident be seriously reprimanded and that (2) he be given a formal and official apology.

[redacted]

CWB:fjb
(4) 1 - [redacted] 1 - Section tickler 1 - Mr. Bates
Attachments (3) ENCLOSURE

b1C

Callahan
Sullivan

Memo to Mr. Roach
from Mr. Bates

[redacted] pointed out that [redacted] intended to reply to Von Karman's letter and to "placate him." [redacted] contacted [redacted] and stated that such a reply would be inadvisable and that he should certainly not apologize to Von Karman.

b7C

Later, [redacted] received instructions to take no further action on Von Karman's clearance. [redacted] felt that the Bureau should have this information and furnished the attached copy of the letter from AEC to the Air Force, copy of Von Karman's letter to [redacted] and a copy of [redacted] memorandum concerning the matter.

ACTION:

This is submitted for your information.

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
☐ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

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100-372586-92 pgs 3-7

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FBI/DOJ

Tickler [redacted] b7C

SAC, Los Angeles (105-863) (Original & 1) April 14, 1955

Director, FBI (100-372586) SECRET

THEODORE VON KARMAN, wa
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

b1 [redacted] (S)

Los Angeles is requested to interview Von Karman and ask him if he has ever been approached either directly or indirectly for classified information. Von Karman should be requested to immediately report to the Bureau any contacts that might be considered a possible approach for classified information. He should also be asked b7C the identities of [redacted] and the extent of his association with them.

The results of the interview with Von Karman should be submitted in report form suitable for dissemination. See 65-63432-78

Enclosure (1)
cc - Washington Field (100-22923) (For Information)

[redacted]
(354894) 5-13-98
CLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/pm
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1
Classified per CIA letter dated 10-28-97

A cover memo from Belmont to Boardman was prepared by JEM:jca on April 11, 1955 in connection with this outgoing mail.

EX-116

RECORDED - 97 100-372586-9
INDEXED - 97
EX-116

COMM - FBI
APR 14 1955
MAILED 19

7 APR 1955

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

JEM:jaa
(5)

ADD 21 1955

SECRET

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☑ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
National Security Act of 1947 & CIA Act of 1949	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
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100-312586-93 pg 2-4

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G.I.R.-7

BY COURIER SERVICE

100-372586-94

Date: April 14, 1955

To: Director (Original and one)
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
FBI File 100-372586

EX-124

b7C

[redacted]

SECURITY MATTER - C
FBI File 117-2713

94 5-13-98
CLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/pgn
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1

b1

[redacted]

(5)

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Gandy

Professor Theodore Karman is undoubtedly identical with Theodore Von Karman, a naturalized United States citizen, who is Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the United States [redacted]

NOTE: A cover memorandum from Belmont to Boardman was prepared by JEM:jaa on 4-21-55 in connection with this outgoing mail.

SECRET

APR 25 1955

JEM:jaa
(5)

SECRET

BY COURIER SERVICE
90 APR 15
CCMM - FBI

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SECRET

Air Force. He has access to practically all classified information, according to the United States Air Force. A summary memorandum dated July 16, 1954, concerning Von Karman was furnished to you by letter also dated July 16, 1954.

b7C

[redacted] is undoubtedly identical with the individual of the same name who is a naturalized United States citizen [redacted] also has access to considerable classified data. [redacted] are not identifiable in our files.

b1

[redacted] (S)

b7C

[redacted] It is our intention to interview Von Karman and the results will be furnished to you.

Your early attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: 4-11-55

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, wa.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-372586)
(WFO file 100-22923)
(LA file 105-863 - Origin)

b7C [redacted]
SECURITY MATTER - C
(Bufile ~~117-2713~~ 116-2713)
(WFO file 100-22422)
(SF file 116-4183 - Origin)

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

b1 [redacted] (5)

Theodore Von Karman is the subject of a closed security investigation. He is a naturalized US citizen, and he is Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, United States Air Force. In 1919 he was an official of the Bela Kun (Communist) Government of Hungary. He is not known to have engaged in any Communist activities. He has been interviewed on a number of occasions and has been co-operative.

b7C b7D [redacted] has been the subject of an extensive security investigation by this Bureau. [redacted] he has associated with individuals who are known to have pro-Communist beliefs. [redacted]

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure
Ticklers - [redacted] b7C

Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont

JJM:jac
(5)

RECORDED - 113 100-372576-99
INDEXED - 113

19 APR 19 1955

EX-107

[redacted]

b7C

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354 894 5-13-98
CLASSIFIED BY SP5JC loom
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1
Classified per CIA Letter dated 10-28-98

[redacted] No evidence which would verify this is available and he has denied the allegation.

b7C [redacted] He has been interviewed in the past and has been co-operative.

[redacted] There is no identifiable information in Bufiles concerning [redacted] (S) b1

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. It is recommended that Von Karman [redacted] b7C be interviewed and asked if any approaches have ever been made to them either directly or indirectly for classified information. During the interviews it should be impressed upon them that they immediately contact the Bureau in the event such approaches are made in the future. If you agree, letters to the field are attached.

2. [redacted] b1 (S)

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☑ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
National Security Act of 1947 & CIA Act of 1949	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
☐ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

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100-372586-95

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FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to:

FBI, LOS ANGELES

5/12/55

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-372586)

THEODORE VON KARMAN, wa.
IS - R

Reurlet 4/14/55.

b7C b7D [redacted] VON KARMAN, 1501 So. Marengo Ave., Pasadena, Calif., advised on instant date that VON KARMAN is currently in Europe and is not expected to return to the U. S. until approximately June 18. He is presumed to be in Paris now but information regarding his exact current whereabouts in Europe can be obtained at his NATO office of the Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development (AGARD), Palais de Chaillot, Paris.

MALONE

Mr. Belmont

JPA:CEA
(4)
LA 105-863

RECORDED - 67

EX-113

MAY 14 1955

96

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-3-94 BY SP5 JC/mm

REGISTERED - AIR MAIL

cc Branigan

MAY 24 1955

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: 6/8/55

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: Dr. Theodore Von Karman
Internal Security - R

[redacted] had been to see him. He related that Dr. Theodore A. Von Karnan, a German aircraft industrialist, who operated a factory near Moscow, is now connected with the NATO Aeronautical Research; that Von Karnan at one time was in the Bella Kuhn government and is known to have been a Communist. [redacted] thought that this might be of interest to us.

b7C
b7D

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont

LBN:fc
(4)

RECORDED - 94 SE 5

EX-122

[redacted]
b7C

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-3-97 BY SP5 JC/pgm

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☒ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
National Security Act of 1947 & CIA Act of 1949	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
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100-372586-97 pgs 2-4

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FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~XXXXXX~~ message to:

FBI, LOS ANGELES 6/30/55 5:00 P.M.

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-372586)

THEODORE VON KARMAN, IS-R.

0-1 to LA 11-1-55 Reply dated 11-7-55 see 65-63432-23

Your attention is called to the fact that during the course of an authorized interview with VON KARMAN, on 6/28/55, re another matter, VON KARMAN casually exhibited a copy of a 2 page AEC letter concerning him, dated 10/13/54, which had been directed to the District Commander, 4th OSI District Office, Washington, D.C., and signed by [redacted] Washington Area, Security Operations.

This letter opened with the paragraph, "Transmitted herewith are copies of reports of investigation concerning subject which have been prepared by the FBI pursuant to the AEC Act of 1946. These reports are forwarded for your review and determination as to whether your department desires this office to further consider your request for clearance of the subject for access to restricted data".

At the bottom as enclosures was the notation, "FBI reports (31)".

This letter set forth an itemized bill of particulars re VON KARMAN which were presumably considered to be derogatory. These charges were subsequently answered in detail by VON KARMAN on 12/20/54, with copies being allegedly furnished to the Air Force, AEC, and the Bureau. VON KARMAN also personally saw AEC [redacted] re these allegations.

VON KARMAN was obviously irritated by these open allegations. He was especially bitter concerning an allegation that his deceased sister had been "friendly" with Professor ALEXANDER GOETZ of the Calif. Institute of Technology, and "whose political ideologies were strongly

JPA:kkh
(4)
105-863
AIR MAIL REGISTERED

RECORDED - 83
Mr. Belmont

100-372586-18

24 JUL 1955

[redacted] b7C

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

b7C

All information contained herein is unclassified Date 6-3-82 by SP2 [illegible]

Pro-Nazi". VON KARMAN interpreted the latter comment re his sister as meaning that she was GOETZ' mistress, a point which he vehemently denied. He felt that it obviously had no bearing whatsoever on a matter of clearance re him; was an "indecent" insult to the memory of his sister; and was a matter which he wished to avenge. Although VON KARMAN was not specifically critical or bitter toward the FBI or its observations, he naturally assumed that the allegations itemized were contained in the indicated FBI reports, and the resentment created by the open revelations contained in the above AEC letter was clear.

The interview, however, terminated on an amiable note, and VON KARMAN indicated that he was now relieved, and that this was simply a matter that he had to get off his chest.

For the further info of the Bureau, VON KARMAN is currently Chairman of the NATO Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development, with headquarters in Paris, and is also Chairman Emeritus of the Scientific Advisory Board of the USAF. He plans to remain in this Country until September, at which time he will return to Paris.

MALONE

cc: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
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☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
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100-372586-98 pgs 3-6

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

DATE: July 6, 1955

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

37489Y
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-17-97 BY 3654/pg

Von Karman is a world-renowned aerodynamicist, born 1881, Hungary; entered the United States in 1930; naturalized in 1936. He is currently Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development, with headquarters in Paris, and is also Chairman Emeritus of the Scientific Advisory Board of the United States Air Force.

Von Karman was investigated by Bureau in 1950 under character of Internal Security - R and in 1954 as applicant matter at request of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) (Reports to AEC and OSI). Investigation reflected Von Karman associated with several Communist Party (CP) members and with William Perl, known Soviet agent. He admitted to Bureau agents during the investigation that he was an official in the Bela Kun Government (Communist) in Hungary in 1919. He denied present or past CP membership.

Los Angeles air-tel dated 6-30-55 reflects that during an interview with Von Karman on 6-28-55 he casually exhibited a copy of a 2-page AEC letter concerning him dated 10-13-54, which had been directed to the District Commander, 4th OSI District Office, Washington, D. C., and signed by [redacted] Washington Area, Security Operations. This was a letter of transmittal to OSI of 31 Bureau reports and contained a bill of particulars of adverse information developed concerning Von Karman. Von Karman said he assumed the bill of particulars was based on FBI reports. He stated he had answered bill of particulars with copies going to AEC, Air Force and Bureau. Von Karman expressed his irritation over charges re his sister's association with Alexander Goetz, who was allegedly pro-Nazi. Bufiles fail to reflect Von Karman's sister was friendly with Goetz, but do reflect Von Karman was alleged to be friendly with Goetz and that Von Karman's sister was alleged to have declared herself to be a Nazi sympathizer. Investigation, however, disproved both allegations.

b7C

ARJ:ss
(5)

RECORDED - 83
100-372586-

CC: LVBoardman
AHBelmont
CWBates

2 JUL 20 1955

54 JUL [illegible] 100-372586 [redacted] b7C

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Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

There is no indication Von Karman received FBI reports, contrariwise, as reflected in Los Angeles airtel, Von Karman stated he naturally "assumed" that the allegations itemized in AEC letter were contained in FBI reports. Inasmuch as AEC letter to OSI referred to FBI reports, the inference arises that this info re Von Karman's sister came from FBI reports.

Bureau has been furnished previously with copy of AEC letter to OSI dated 10-13-54 and with Von Karman's reply thereto dated 12-20-54. These were received from [redacted] AEC, 1918-55, who advised that in accordance with AEC clearance procedures the Air Force was requested to obtain certain information from Von Karman so that AEC could make a clearance determination.

In this reply 12-20-54 to AEC [redacted] Von Karman made reference to the AEC letter to the Air Force dated 10-13-54 in which AEC had requested a statement from Von Karman concerning certain derogatory information. Von Karman referred specifically to a request for a statement from him concerning "Alexander Goetz with whom Von Karman's deceased sister is reported to have been friendly and whose political ideology is allegedly strongly pro-Nazi." In Von Karman's letter of reply he stated he considered the above quote an inexcusable insult against the memory of his "beloved sister." He stated he could not see what such a statement had to do with his access to atomic information.

A notation by [redacted] appeared on Von Karman's letter reflecting that [redacted] would not reply in writing to Von Karman. One Photostat each of AEC letter to OSI dated 10-13-54 and Von Karman's letter to [redacted] dated 12-20-54 is attached.

See 100-372586-8 for Gen'l. Intel. Analysis

RECOMMENDATION:

Liaison should discuss this matter with AEC and point out FBI files do not contain the allegation re Von Karman's sister. AEC should be advised context of its letter to OSI referring only to FBI reports and summarizing charges led Von Karman to the assumption that alleged erroneous charges came from FBI reports and resulted in his protests and threats to avenge the "indecent" insult to the memory of his sister.

AEC should be asked to advise us of any action they take to straighten out this matter.

ARJ

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: July 12, 1955

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

354894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-22-82 BY SP5 JCW

Reference is made to my memorandum dated July 6, 1955, pointing out that Von Karman was investigated by the Bureau in 1950 under character of Internal Security - R and in 1954 as an applicant at the request of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Investigation reflected Von Karman associated with several Communist Party members and with William Perl, known Soviet agent. He admitted to Bureau Agents that he was an official in the Bela Kun Government (Communist) in Hungary in 1919. He denied present or past Communist Party membership. By airtel dated June 30, 1955, from Los Angeles it was pointed out that during an interview with Von Karman on June 28, 1955, he casually exhibited a copy of a two-page AEC letter concerning him which had been sent by the AEC to the 4th OSI District Office, Washington. The letter transmitted Bureau reports to OSI and contained a number of questions which the AEC desired OSI to ask Von Karman. One of the questions concerned Alexander Goetz and the AEC letter stated "Goetz - with whom his deceased sister is reported to have been friendly and whose political ideology is allegedly strongly pro-Nazi." Bureau files failed to reflect Von Karman's sister was friendly with Goetz. They do reflect that he (Von Karman) was allegedly friendly with Goetz and that his sister was alleged to have declared herself to be a Nazi sympathizer. Investigation, however, disproved both allegations.

It was recommended that Liaison discuss this matter with AEC and point out that Bureau files do not contain the allegation regarding Von Karman's sister's association with Goetz and that the AEC letter led Von Karman to the assumption that erroneous charges came from FBI reports which resulted in his protest.

[redacted] This matter was discussed by Liaison with [redacted] of the AEC on July 11, 1955. [redacted] stated that the wording of the AEC letter to OSI concerning Von Karman's sister was in error

b7C

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

CWB:fjb
(7)

RECORDED - 83 100-372586-

2 JUL 20 1955

1 - Mr. Boardman
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - [redacted] b7C
1 - Liaison Section
1 - Mr. Bates

JUL 26 1955

Memo to Mr. Boardman
from Mr. Belmont

[redacted] stated he had taken action to insure that the persons responsible for this would not again make such a mistake. He advised that the only information that the AEC had on Von Karman was from the Bureau's reports. [redacted] was informed that the manner in which this was handled made it appear that the FBI was responsible for these erroneous charges. [redacted] stated he was extremely sorry for this and could assure that it would not happen again. He stated that he was lodging a strong protest with [redacted] of OSI regarding the fact that OSI had given Von Karman a copy of the AEC letter which was classified "Confidential." [redacted] further advised that Von Karman had protested strongly to the AEC and that [redacted] had talked to Von Karman to try to calm him down.

[redacted] again expressed his regrets that the AEC letter was in error. He stated he would let the Bureau know the results of his protest to [redacted] It was reiterated to [redacted] that extreme care should be exercised in the handling of FBI information so that no unjust criticism could be reflected upon the Bureau.

b7C

ACTION:

This is submitted for your information.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

100-372586 - 10
354-894

RECORDED - 70

BY COURIER SERVICE

Date: August 9, 1955

To: Director (Original & 1)
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN

CLASSIFIED BY SP5 J/mm
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
Class. Ltr. dtd 8-8-78

[redacted] (S)

b1

A review of Bureau files reflects that the subject's name as Szoelloestcictak was furnished to us by the Office of Special Investigations. You may wish to communicate with the Office of Special Investigations in this matter.

cc - Director of Special Investigations BY COURIER SERVICE
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
Building Temp E
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED - DOYLE

BY COURIER SVC.
5 4 AUG 10
COMM - FBI

NOTE: Info received from OSI in report dated 3-20-51 (100-372586-20).

WTW:ss
(5)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

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AUG 12 1955

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Section 552		Section 552a
☑ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☑ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
National Security Act of 1947 & CIA Act of 1949	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
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☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
105-372586-101 pgs 2-4

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☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-372586-Not Recorded 9-22-55

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FBI/DOJ

cc - Liaison

SECRET

[redacted] b7C

RECORDED - 70

SECRET

100-372586 - 103

254-894 5-8-98
CLASSIFIED BY SP5JC/jam
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1 [redacted]
Class. lifted per CIA letter dated 9-8-98

22

Date: September 19, 1955

BY COURIER SERVICE

To: Director (orig. & 1)
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN
[redacted] (S) 7

[redacted] (S) b1 b3

You have been previously furnished reports of our investigation of Theodore Von Karman [redacted] (S)

ARJ:mk:eb
(5)

NOTE ON YELLOW: Subject is a world-renowned Aerodynamicist. A naturalized citizen, he is currently chairman of the NATO advisory group for aeronautical research and development and is chairman emeritus of the Scientist Advisory Board of the USAF.

[redacted] b1 b3

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Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

BY COURIER SVC.
11 SEP 20
COMM - FBI

58 SEP 22 1955

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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-372586-103 pg 2

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FBI/DOJ

ADARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-372586) DATE: 9/15/55

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (105-863)

SUBJECT: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.
IS - R

354-804
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-25-87 BY SP5 K/ayn

[redacted] Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, 1501 So. Marengo Ave., Pasadena, Calif. (Chairman, NATO Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development with headquarters in Paris, and Chairman Emeritus, Scientific Advisory Board, U. S. Air Force, Washington, D. C.), telephonically advised this office on 9/7/55 that she has become increasingly upset in recent months concerning the "attitude" taken by [redacted] where VON KARMAN is primarily engaged. [redacted] related that [redacted] a divorcee about 50, had written her a letter on 8/30/55 wherein she stated that [redacted] while he visits in the States." [redacted] took particular exception to the word "visits" used by [redacted] whom she described as a U. S. citizen, and pointed out that VON KARMAN was not "visiting" in the United States when he returns to this country since the United States is his home.

[redacted] inferred that this attitude by [redacted] might reflect her feeling toward this country, but she could furnish nothing else of a specific nature that would reflect on her loyalty to this Government.

[redacted] explained that [redacted] who was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, had formerly worked in [redacted] during World War II, and that through her own assistance while formerly employed at the [redacted] had returned to the United States about 1948 or 1949 and also was employed [redacted] She thereafter replaced [redacted] when the latter came to [redacted] and subsequently joined [redacted]

It is noted that [redacted] also about 50, [redacted] has acted in the capacity of [redacted]

JPA:CEA
(3)
REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED-29

INDEXED-29

SEP 16 1955

b7C

[redacted]

It is of course unknown by this office what the real purpose of [redacted] call may have been, but it is speculated that it may well have been motivated by possible jealousy rather than any well founded concern for the national security. Although [redacted] has been cooperative with this office in the past and has been considered reliable, it is recalled that she has on occasions previously called this office on nonspecific matters at irregular hours under circumstances indicating her to be under the possible influence of intoxicants. The above complaint, though given by her in a rational manner at about 5:40 PM, was followed on the same date by a telegram to this office at 10:04 PM. It read as follows:

"Please give message to [redacted] concerning her letter [redacted] while he visits - repeat visits in the States.' For [redacted] information, VON KARMAN doest not 'visit in the United States.' The United States is him home and when he is here he is not visiting when he returns.

[redacted]

The indices of the Los Angeles Office contain no information regarding [redacted] Her former husband's first name was unknown to [redacted]

The above is furnished to the Bureau for information only, and no further action is being taken by this office.

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OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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Section 552

- ☐ (b)(1)
- ☐ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3)
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  - _____
  - _____
- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☐ (b)(6)
- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
- ☐ (b)(7)(B)
- ☒ (b)(7)(C)
- ☐ (b)(7)(D)
- ☐ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(8)
- ☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
- ☐ (k)(2)
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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-372586-104 pg 3

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OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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☐ (b)(7)(A)
☐ (b)(7)(B)
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☐ (b)(7)(D)
☐ (b)(7)(E)
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FBI/DOJ

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ce - Liaison [redacted] b1C

SECRET

100-372586 - 105

RECORDED - 64

BY COURIER SERVICE

(35+894) 5-8-98
CLASSIFIED BY [illegible]
DECLASSIFY ON: [illegible]
Classified per CIA letter dated 9-8-98

EX-113

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Date: October 26, 1955

To: Director (orig. & 1)
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN

[redacted] (S) b1 b3

b1
b3

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] Therefore, we are leaving to your discretion the decision as to what dissemination you desire to make in this matter. (S)

cc - 1 - Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
Building Temps E
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C.

BY COURIER SER

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman

FLJ:hpf
(6)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

BY COURIER SVC.
65 OCT 27
COMM - FBI

60 OCT 31 1955

SECRET

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OCT 5

Letter to Director
Central Intelligence Agency

NOTE: Subject is a world-renowned Aerodynamicist and a naturalized citizen. He is currently Chairman of the NATO Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development and is Chairman Emeritus of the Scientists Advisory Board of the USAF.

b1
b3

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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- ☑ (b)(3) National Security Act of 1947 & CIA Act of 1949
- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☐ (b)(6)
- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
- ☐ (b)(7)(B)
- ☐ (b)(7)(C)
- ☐ (b)(7)(D)
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- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
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Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
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100-372586-105 pgs 3-4

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X Deleted Page(s) X
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_____	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
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6 ☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-372586-106

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X No Duplication Fee X
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FBI/DOJ

T [redacted] b7C

(Orig. & 1)

SAC, Los Angeles (100-95266)

June 27, 1956

Director, FBI (100-164610)

[redacted] wa. b7C
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT
ESPIONAGE - CZ & R

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Legal Attache, Paris, dated 6-14-56 requesting that Dr. Theodore Von Karman be interviewed concerning his relationship with the subject.

You should arrange to interview Von Karman to determine his knowledge of and relationship with b7C [redacted] The result of this contact should be set forth in memorandum form suitable for dissemination.

cc - 1 - Paris (105-259) (info)
cc - 1 - 100-372586 (Von Karman)
cc - 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit
Enclosure

RKSimon
(7)

100-372586
NOT RECORDED
176 JUN 29 1956

354895 col
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/22/97 BY SP-5 BCE/JG
354-894 SPS SC/DOM 6-25-97

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-164610-1572

YELLOW DUPLICATE
JUN 27 1956
MAILED

8 JUL 5 1956

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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Section 552a

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☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-372586 - Not Recorded 6-27-56

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
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XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

7-13-56

A. H. BELMONT

cc-s - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Liaison

[redacted]

INTERNAL SECURITY - ITALY

100-372986 (Theodore Von Karman)

[redacted]

Bufiles reflect subject used as reference Dr. Theodore Von Karman, who personally recommended subject for present consultant position [redacted] Von Karman, aged 75, naturalized US 1936. Von Karman is one of founders of Aerojet-General Corp. Per Bufiles, as of October, 1955, Von Karman was currently Chairman of the NATO Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development and Chairman Emeritus of the Scientists Advisory Board of the USAF. Internal Security investigation of Von Karman by Bureau in 1950 and AEC Applicant investigation in 1954 reflected he was associated with several CP members and with William Perl, known Soviet agent. No subversive or espionage activity developed and, on interview, Von Karman admitted in 1919 he was briefly a member of communist regime of Bela Kun in Hungary but denied past or present CP membership [redacted]

b1C

[redacted]

Attention was called to Von Karman's personally recommending subject for current employment [redacted] as consultant. Re Von Karman, OCNO advises G-2 investigations of him in 1941 and 1948 were favorable. Subsequently in 1948, G-2 received allegation Von Karman had been CP member in Hungary in 1918. Additional inquiry by G-2 failed to prove or disprove this allegation and Von Karman was recommended for position of trust and confidence.

[redacted]

he had been recommended for employment by Von Karman.

[redacted]

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Enclosure
ETB:kfc
(6)

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-25-97 BY SP5 SCM

NOT RECORDED
191 JUL 20 1956

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Section 552

- ☐ (b)(1)
- ☐ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3)
  _____
  _____
  _____
- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☐ (b)(6)
- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
- ☐ (b)(7)(B)
- ☑ (b)(7)(C)
- ☐ (b)(7)(D)
- ☐ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(8)
- ☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
- ☐ (k)(2)
- ☐ (k)(3)
- ☐ (k)(4)
- ☐ (k)(5)
- ☐ (k)(6)
- ☐ (k)(7)

☑ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

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☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-372586-Not Recorded 7-13-56 pgs 2-3

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X Deleted Page(s) X
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OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Section 552		Section 552a
☐ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☒ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
☐ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-372586-Not Recorded 9-11-56

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X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
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FBI/DOJ

L. V. Boardman

September 7, 1956

A. H. Belmont

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont

[redacted]

INTERNAL SECURITY - ITALY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-25-97 BY SP5 [illegible]

[redacted]

(4) Subject was personally recommended for employment by Dr. Theodore Von Karman. Concerning Von Karman, OCNO [illegible] he was investigated by G-2 in 1941 and 1948 with favorable [illegible]. Later in 1948 G-2 received allegation Von Karman had been CP [illegible] in Hungary in 1918. Additional inquiry by G-2 failed to prove or disprove this allegation and Von Karman was recommended for position of [illegible] and confidence.

[redacted] he had

100-372586 (Theodore Von Karman)

NOT RECORDED
117 9-11-1956

Enclosure

SEP 12 1955

105-50728

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

been recommended for employment by Von Karman.)

[redacted]

Bufiles reflect only that he has used Von Karman as a reference. Concerning Von Karman Bufiles reflect he is one of founders of Aerojet-General Corporation and as of October, 1955, was currently chairman of NATO Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development and Chairman Emeritus of the Scientists Advisory Board of the USAF. Internal Security investigation by Bureau in 1950 and AEC applicant investigation in 1954 reflected Von Karman associated with several CP members and with William Perl, known Soviet agent. No subversive espionage activity developed and, on interview, Von Karman admitted that in 1919 he was briefly a member of communist government regime of Bela Kun in Hungary, but denied past or present CP membership. [redacted]

OBSERVATION:

[redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

[redacted]

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OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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Section 552		Section 552a
☒ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☒ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
National Security Act of 1947 & CIA Act of 1949	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
☐ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-372586-108

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FBI/DOJ

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

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☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☐ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
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☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
101-372586-109

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FBI/DOJ

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: NOV 15 1972

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (105-new) (P)

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
IS-R
(OO:LA)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

The NCPD advised on [redacted] The NYO does not know the significance of this information: (U)

354-849 6-30-97
CLASSIFIED BY: SP5 JC/pm
REASON: 1.5 (C,d)
DECLASSIFY ON: X 1,6

THEODORE VON KARMAN (Ed.)
California Institute of Technology
Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory

Recipient offices are requested to identify subject and to handle the investigation in accordance with Section 10 Manual of Instructions. In any investigation no reference should be made to the original source of this information.

[redacted] (S)

3 - Bureau (RM) REC-48 MCT-14
[redacted] (S)
2 - Los Angeles (RM) 100-372586-109X
1 - New York [redacted]
1 - New York [redacted] (S)

22 NOV 20 1972

DDO:kap
(7)

DEC 7 1972

~~SECRET~~

ESPIONAGE

b7C

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

9010-108

SECRET

NY 105-

Subject may be identical to Bufile 100-372586 and LAfile 105-863.

SECRET

4-22 (Rev. 1-22-60)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Brar

SECRET 11-22, 1972

- [ ] Name Searching Unit - R[redacted]
- [x] Service Un[redacted]n 652[redacted]
- [ ] Forward[redacted]iew [redacted] Ext [redacted]
- [x] Attentio[redacted]
- [x] Return to[redacted]

[redacted] Supervisor Room Ext.

b7C

Type of References Requested:
- [ ] Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- [x] All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- [ ] Subversive References Only
- [ ] Nonsubversive References Only
- [ ] Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:
- [ ] Restricted to Locality of _____
- [ ] Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
- [ ] Buildup [ ] Variations

Subject Theodore von Karman
Birthdate & Place
Address California Institute of Technology

Localities Los Angeles

R# _____ Date 11-27 Searcher Initials Les

Prod.

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
100-372586	
116-397468	
[redacted]	(5) b1
40-1355	
40-18867	

approx 350 serial left not listed.

CLASSIFIED BY: SP5 JCHogn
REASON: 1.5 (C)
DECLASSIFY ON: X-1

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SECRET

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI (100-372586) DATE: 1/12/73

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (105-863)(C)

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
IS - R

OO: LA

ReNYlet to Director dated 11/15/72. b7C b7D

[redacted] Jet Propulsion Laboratories, Pasadena, California, advised on 1/9/73 that Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN has been deceased since 1963.

In view of the above no further investigation being conducted.

1-d

2- Bureau (RM)
1- New York [redacted] (RM) b1
1- Los Angeles (5)
WLM:fet
(4)

EX-105
REC-49

[redacted]

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(354-894) 6-30-97
CLASSIFIED BY SP5 JCM/AA
REASON: 1.5 (C)
DECLASSIFY ON: X1

[redacted] b7C

~~SECRET~~

PJB

MAY 8 1973

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan